

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 377

Topic: 6 months waiting period and those leaving care

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- (a) Will young people leaving care and applying for Youth Allowance (other) or Newstart be exempt from the 6 month waiting period?
- (b) Are any other provisions given to those leaving care under 24 years old who have no support networks and cannot survive on Newstart?

Answer:

Currently, under the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 2) Bill 2014, exemptions to the waiting period will be available for people who have a partial capacity to work less than 30 hours a week, parents of a Family Tax Benefit child, part time apprentices, principal carer parents, a job seeker with significant barriers to employment under the current employment services arrangements (or the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme equivalent) and Disability Employment participants.

The Bill also seeks to provide the Minister with the power to make additional exemptions, either from the measure as a whole or from the first six month waiting period.