

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

**Outcome Number: 5**

**Question No: 507**

**Topic: National Disability Advocacy Providers**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Siewert** asked:

How was the selection of the advocacy groups that are doing the external merit review chosen?

**Answer:**

The Department of Social Services (DSS) undertook a direct selection process to identify the successful providers to deliver the External Merits Review Support Component.

The External Merits Review Support Component Program Guidelines provide significant detail about the approach and criteria used to select providers. These Guidelines are available on the DSS website at:

<http://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/part-c-application-information-for-the-external-merits-review-support-component>