

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Community Development Program - breaches

Question reference number: HS 1 (SQ17-000082)

Senator: McCarthy

Type of question: Hansard page 87

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Question:

- a) Senator McCARTHY: Ms Campbell. I want to understand it through the books but also through some statistics I have received in terms of CDP jobseekers. How does the Department monitor those who breach their CDP?
- b) How do you monitor what happens to those breaches and what happens to the money that they do not receive?

Answer:

- a) The Community Development Programme (CDP) is a grant funded program administered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. That Department has responsibility for CDP policy and administration.

CDP providers agree participation requirements with job seekers and are responsible for monitoring job seekers who breach those participation requirements.

The Department of Human Services is responsible for investigating if a job seeker compliance penalty should be applied under social security law. It will investigate whether a penalty is to be applied if a job seeker's CDP provider reports non-compliance with participation requirements.

- b) The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is responsible for ongoing monitoring of the CDP program including breaches of participation requirements by CDP job seekers.

If CDP job seekers are not eligible for payment (including as a result of compliance-related penalties), payment is not made and funding is not drawn from the special appropriation.

The special appropriation funding, established through the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*, is used to make payments to income support recipients (including those participating in CDP).

The Department of Finance website provides information on appropriations at:
<http://www.finance.gov.au/resource-management/pgpa-glossary/appropriation/>

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has policy responsibility for CDP and is best placed to answer specific questions about the appropriation made by Government for CDP administration.