

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Drug Testing

Question reference number: HS 50 (SQ17-000131)

Senator: Watt

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 21 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What specific training will be available for staff who will have face to face discussions with recipients who will be required to undertake a drug test.
- b) What measures will DHS put in place to reassure the public that letters will not be sent to wrongly identified recipients for drug testing?

Answer:

- a) Comprehensive training will be available for all staff involved in the substance misuse measures, with specialist training for staff who will conduct face-to-face discussions with income support recipients involved in the trial. Training material and delivery methods will be developed as further details of the trial are settled, including through legislation.
- b) The Department will undertake extensive user assurance and system based testing as part of implementation of the trial. This will also include thorough testing of processes and protocols for notifications to job seekers.