

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments

Question No: SQ17-000313

Topic: Widow Allowance

Hansard page: 100

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

What costs comprise the proposal to cease Widow Allowance? (i.e. the breakdown of the \$4.5 million cost over the forward estimates)

Answer:

The \$4.5 million cost associated with the proposal to cease Widow Allowance comprises:

- a \$4.38 million saving for the Department of Social Services; and
- a \$8.93 million cost for the Department of Human Services.

Department of Employment costs were also considered as part of this proposal – namely, the cost of providing opt-in employment support for people who will be granted Newstart Allowance and would have otherwise been granted Widow Allowance.

There is no additional cost impact associated with providing this support to those on Newstart Allowance who would have otherwise been granted Widow Allowance. The employment support costs for Widow Allowance recipients opting in is already included in employment program costs.