

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

Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ17-000354

Topic: Disability Employment Service (DES)

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

Can the Department indicate whether all participants of DES who reach a 26 week employment outcome will be required to have an Ongoing Support Assessment under the proposed changes to DES? And, consequentially, will Ongoing Support commence at 26 weeks of employment as a way of supporting participants to a 52 week outcome?

Answer:

It is not proposed that all DES participants who reach a 26 week employment outcome will be required to have an Ongoing Support Assessment. As currently, DES providers will provide Post Placement Support to all participants undertaking an employment placement at least until they achieve a 26 week outcome, and will then determine whether the participant requires further assistance to maintain their employment through continued Post Placement Support or through Ongoing Support.

It is anticipated that the introduction of a 52 week outcome payment will create an incentive to provide Ongoing Support, where doing so increases the likelihood of achieving a 52 week outcome.

Ongoing Support Assessments undertaken by members of the National Panel of Assessors will continue to be used as an independent check of a participant's support needs after a provider has made an initial determination that Ongoing Support is required.