

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

Question No: SQ17-000357

Outcome Number: 1.7 Allowances and Concessions for Seniors

Topic: Pension Eligibility

Hansard page: 125

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

Did you look at NDIS or aged care eligibility when developing the proposals for the retirement age to go up to 70 and the implications it has for some of these other areas (such as access to DES)?

Answer:

Eligibility criteria for Australian Government employment services, such as Disability Employment Services (DES), are linked to the Age Pension qualification age. This means that in effect, the cut-off age for eligibility for these programs changes as the Age Pension qualification age changes. This was taken into account when considering changes to the Age Pension qualification age and is consistent with the legislation passed in 2009 to increase the Age Pension eligibility age from 65 to 67 years.

Access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and aged care services is independent of income support eligibility and is not affected by the 2009 changes or the proposed change to increase the Age Pension qualification age from 67 to 70 years.