

**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: SQ17-000382**

**Topic: Disability Employment Service (DES)**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Carol Brown asked:**

The Government announced in the budget papers it will allow 1,000 new students with a lower level of disability to access DES assistance, what will be the eligibility criteria for 'the lower level of disability'?

**Answer:**

A school leaver trial will be undertaken over two years to evaluate the efficacy of providing DES support to fulltime students with disability who are in their final year of school and not currently eligible for DES.

The trial will be designed to establish whether there is a demonstrated benefit in terms of improved employment outcomes for a broader group of students with disabilities in their final year of school, achieved by providing support through DES, and whether this can be achieved without other adverse effects such as diminished educational outcomes.

The detailed design of the trial will be developed in consultation with representatives of people with disability, DES providers and people with relevant expertise in education. Part of the design work will be establishing criteria for who should be included in the trial. Participation will be voluntary.