

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: SQ17-000493

Topic: Mental health, comorbidity and budget measures

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

With the provisions to stop income support recipients being exempt from mutual obligation requirements solely due to drug or alcohol abuse, how will any undiagnosed mental health or comorbidity be determined?

Answer:

Under this measure income support recipients will no longer be able to be exempt from their mutual obligation requirements for reasons predominately related to drug or alcohol misuse. Recipients will continue to be able to be granted exemptions for other circumstances such as temporary illness or incapacity (including mental health issues), a major personal crisis (such as homelessness), domestic violence and temporary caring responsibilities. A temporary illness or incapacity exemption will continue to require a medical certificate based on a medical diagnosis.