

**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: SQ17-000494**

**Topic: Mental health, comorbidity and budget measures**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert asked:**

The Budget measures state that recipients will be referred to employment services providers in appropriate activities, including addressing their substance-related issues. What providers that the Government is aware of, have expertise in addressing drug and alcohol issues and comorbidity, and can the Government please provide a list of these services and their locations.

**Answer:**

Jobseekers with an injury, disability or health condition which is assessed as the main impediment to them obtaining employment will be referred to a Disability Employment Services (DES) provider. DES is administered by the Department of Social Services. DES Providers are expected to deliver services to participants with a wide range of disabilities and other employment barriers. They are experienced at supporting people with barriers including homelessness, domestic violence and substance abuse. Providers have strong links within their local community and are contractually required to work cooperatively with other programs and services including health services, community welfare organisations and local community services.

DES Providers address substance abuse issues in the job seeker's Job Plan, and refer them to other services as appropriate. These may include:

- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Information and education programs
- Detoxification or withdrawal management
- Non-residential care or rehabilitation
- Pharmacotherapy (i.e. opioid substitution therapy such as methadone)

A list of jobactive and DES Providers by location can be found at [jobsearch.gov.au](http://jobsearch.gov.au).