

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: SQ17-000505

Topic: Drug Testing

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

What procedures will be in place if an individual wishes to challenge a result or complain about the way a test was conducted?

Answer:

The drug testing will only be administered by a qualified representative from a contracted third party drug testing provider, in accordance with relevant standards for drug testing, including both AS/NZS 4308:200 (*Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs of abuse in urine*) and AS 4760:2006 (*Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs in oral fluid*).

These standards outline the procedures required for a laboratory to demonstrate its technical competency and are prescriptive in the procedures required to ensure appropriate specimen collection handling, storage, transport, on-site screening and the use of quality control.

It is intended that an 'A' sample and a 'B' sample would be collected, however if a job seeker disputes the result of a test, they will be able to ask for a re-test. Where the job seeker requests a re-test, this would be done using the second sample.