

**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: SQ17-000508**

**Topic: Drug Testing**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert, asked:**

How will the security of testing results be assured?

**Answer:**

The results of a job seeker's drug test will be classed as protected information for the purposes of social security law. Protection of personal information is dealt with in section 202 of the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999* and all standard recording, disclosure and usage provisions will apply.

Legislation for the drug testing trial included in the *Social Services Legislative Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017* provides for subordinate legislation that will set out rules for drug testing, including rules relating to the security of test results.

The contract with the drug test provider will be for services to be delivered in accordance with the drug testing rules, and will also contain contractual requirements specifically relating to the security of test results. Transmission of test results between the provider and the Government will be through a secure system.