

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: SQ17-000509

Topic: Drug Testing

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

Given the use of data profiling, how can the drug testing trial be described as 'randomised'?

Answer:

Risk profiling will be used to identify particular characteristics that indicate a higher risk of substance misuse issues. Job seekers with these characteristics will be selected randomly from within the broader group. Risk profiling will help to maximise the chances of identifying those job seekers who may need help to overcome their substance abuse.

Risk profiling will consider a broad range of characteristics based on existing data, including job seekers with identified substance abuse issues or who meet the risk profile characteristics. However, this does not mean only those that have an identified history of substance abuse will be selected.