

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: SQ17-000510

Topic: Drug Testing

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

Will any quantitative or qualitative data (for example, through client interviews with Centrelink social workers, psychologists or assessors recorded in casefile notes or assessment scores) be utilised?

If 'yes', were clients informed about how such data could be used before they provided consent/will they be into the future?

Answer:

The risk profile will be informed by analysis of de-identified data from the social security administrative data set. This data set contains a range of information on social security claimants. It also contains high level indicators of a job seeker's alcohol and/or drug issues where recorded, for example, as part of an assessment of the job seekers work capacity or for incapacity exemption purposes.

Information about social security recipients, including de-identified data, may be recorded, used or disclosed in accordance with the confidentiality provisions in Division 3, Part 5 of the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*. Protection of the personal information is dealt with in section 202 of this Act and all standard recording, disclosure and usage provisions will apply to any data disclosed for the purposes of informing the risk profile.