

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: SQ17-000525

Topic: Mental health, comorbidity and budget measures

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

How will the screening distinguish between different kinds of opioids users or will they all be placed on the Cashless Welfare Card too?

Answer:

The drug testing trial is not intended to identify people who are taking legal medications under a valid prescription.

The specific details of the drug testing used are still to be confirmed pending procurement of a specialised drug testing service provider. However, it is intended that jobseekers selected for drug testing will be questioned by the drug testing provider to account for any legal medications that may cause a false positive or an unintended outcome. Jobseekers who are taking legal medications may be required to provide evidence of this and this will be taken into account in considering the test result and whether the jobseeker will be placed on welfare quarantining.