

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 3**

**Program: 1.6**

**Question No. AE15/014**

**Senator Bilyk asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2015:**

Ms Jones: In the mechanism that has been developed under the provisions under the foreign fighters act, once the cancellation has been done by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection in relation to either the passport or the visa, then it comes to the Attorney-General's Department. We consult with the Department of Social Services, provide advice to the Attorney and it is the Attorney that provides the advice to the Minister of Social Services.

Senator BILYK: What the role of Centrelink officers once the decision has been made?

Ms Jones: I would have to take that on notice. That part of the mechanism is the responsibility in the Department of Social Services and Department of Human Services.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Frontline Centrelink officers do not play any role in the decision to cancel welfare benefits under the foreign fighter provisions. The decision to cancel welfare benefits is made by the Attorney-General and the process to cancel welfare benefits is enacted by relevant officers within DHS.

Individuals are notified in writing (where possible) when their welfare benefits have been cancelled.