

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

Program 1.1

Question No. 78

Senator Siewert asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

- a. Providers in low socio-economic areas are likely to have more difficulty collecting client fees. Will funding cuts be distributed evenly across services or will local demographics be taken into account? If so, how?
- b. What impacts will this have on the provision of FDR:
 1. Will service capacity decrease?
 2. Will there be job losses?
 3. Will waiting lists get longer?

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

- a. Local demographics will be taken into account when allocating funding. Before deciding on the funding allocations for individual FRCs the Government will have regard to the likely capacity of each FRC to recover funds through charging fees for FDR.
- b.
 1. It is not expected that service capacity of FRCs will decrease. Demand for FDR services has continued to grow in recent years and this trend is expected to continue.
 2. It is not expected that there will be job losses.
 3. It is not expected that waiting lists will get longer.