

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Overview of proposed legislative approach for drug testing trial**

Section 22 - irrelevant to request

False positives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bill to provide that, in making a decision to place a person on welfare quarantining based on a positive result, decision maker has discretion to 'disregard' the positive test result if satisfied on the basis of documentary evidence there is a reasonable possibility that the positive result may be false (i.e. a current prescription for a licit drug that may cause a false positive). If discretion is exercised, test would be treated the same as if it had been negative.</li></ul>
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Section 22 - irrelevant to request

## **Tackling drug and alcohol abuse among welfare recipients**

### Questions and Answers

Measure: Trial drug testing for new recipients of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) in three locations

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Drug test methods ..... 13

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**Q57. What are the accuracy rates of the various drug testing methods that will be used in the trial?**

A. This trial intends to use three different drug testing methods – saliva, urine and hair follicle analysis. All three methods are widely accepted as valid means of testing for various illicit substances.

To limit the risk of false positives, job seekers selected for drug testing will be questioned by the drug testing provider to account for any legal medications that may cause a false positive. Job seekers who are taking legal medications may be required to provide evidence of this.

In addition, if a job seeker disputes the result of a test, they will be able to ask for a re-test. Where the job seeker has had a saliva test, the re-test would be a further saliva test conducted following the first test at the same appointment. In the case of urine or hair follicle testing, two samples would be taken at the same appointment. The re-test would use the second sample.

Job seekers who request a re-test will have to meet the cost of the re-test if the result is again positive. This is designed to discourage job seekers from requesting frivolous re-testing where they know they have used illicit drugs.

**Q58. How will the testing process safeguard against the risk of false positive results?**

A. The majority of drug tests have a rate of false positives. To minimise this risk, job seekers undergoing a drug test will be questioned by the drug testing provider to account for any legal medications or foods that may cause false positives.

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