

Submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Evidence

There is no evidence that random drug-testing of unemployed people is an effective strategy to help people overcome addiction or find a job. Conversely, research suggests it is likely to adversely affect both the wellbeing and the employment prospects of those tested and generate significant flow-on costs in terms of testing, enforcement, treatment, crime, emergency relief, housing stress, mental health and further stigma of the long-term unemployed in the job market.¹² P

(Drug Testing Trial) Bill 2018 fails to acknowledge that no amount of preparation, prodding or incentives can push these jobseekers into non-existent jobs, or force employers to choose them to fill vacancies over preferred candidates. Ignoring the demand side of the labour market, the bill O L Q N V μ X Q H ¶ S O R \ D E L to substance abuse¹⁸ and shifts the focus of government intervention from managing a socioeconomic