

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 16 FEBRUARY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Fraud and compliance – optical surveillance

Question reference number: HSW 23

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 29 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

For the periods 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 and 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011:

1. How much has been spent on optical surveillance?
2. How many clients were subject to this surveillance?
3. How many of those under surveillance resulted in no action being taken?
4. What was the cost of the surveillance where no action resulted?

Answer:

1. 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011- \$755,294
1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011- \$226,257
2. 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 - 412
1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011 - 225
3. For the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011, 188 investigations using surveillance warranted no further action.
For the period 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011, 70 investigations using surveillance warranted no further action.
4. The actual cost of using surveillance in cases that warranted no further action is not readily available, and not cost effective to obtain.