

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Payments to Temporary Visa Holders

Question reference number: HS 17

Senator: Carol Brown

Type of question: Hansard page 111

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Senator FIFIELD: In order to claim those payments while you might be on a temporary visa, do you need to claim that you are intending to stay in Australia permanently or is it enough to be on a temporary visa? Is there any sort of declaration that you have to make?

Mr Salvage: I would like to take that on notice. Obviously a lot of the conditions of that temporary visa address those issues, but I would have to get back to you on that.

- b) Senator FIFIELD: Are there cases where people fraudulently declare to Centrelink a visa status that they do not have?

Answer:

- a) The holder of a specified temporary visa must be residing in Australia to qualify for Family Tax Benefit, Baby Bonus or Paid Parental Leave, and must declare that they are living in Australia permanently.

To determine whether a customer is residing in Australia, the department looks at a range of different factors including their accommodation arrangements, family relationships and financial ties to Australia as well as the frequency and duration of their travel outside Australia.

- b) The department has not detected or investigated any fraudulent declarations of a temporary visa status in the last 12 months.