

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Staffing – IT Working Hours

Question reference number: HS 132

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What steps has the Department taken to ensure working hours in the information technology Department are reasonable and do not contribute to stress and non-optimal outcomes.

Answer:

The Department of Human Services Agreement 2011-2014 provides arrangements for work hours, including consultation about working arrangements. Some employees need to be available to be contacted outside their ordinary hours in the event of a specific business requirement.

The Department's work health and safety policies and guidelines address fatigue management risks. Fatigue management was one of the topics promoted during Safe Work month in October 2015.

The departmental guidance on fatigue management has been provided to all staff, including information technology staff.