

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: WA Enforcement Case

Question reference number: HS 160

Senator: Xenophon

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Can the Department confirm that, prior to initiating proceedings, the case officer acknowledged to the father that the total debt on record was likely incorrect?

Answer:

The father has disputed the validity of his assessments since 2010. The father had been advised on many occasions to apply for a Change of Assessment to address his concerns.

In a conversation with a departmental officer on 7 April 2015, the father asserted that the income used in some assessments did not properly reflect his actual financial capacity. The officer advised that if the father was concerned that his actual financial capacity had not been taken into account, he should make an application for a change of assessment.