

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: WA Non Agency Payment Case

Question reference number: HS 167

Senator: Xenophon

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

It is noted that the mother refused to acknowledge payments as non-agency payments:

- a) Please provide details of the efforts the Department went to try to convince the mother that the payments should be accepted by her as non-agency payments.
- b) Please provide details as to the cost involved in that effort

Answer:

- a) In this case, on each occasion a Non-Agency Payment (NAP) was claimed by the father, the Department of Human Services (the department) contacted the mother to determine if there was mutual intent the payment had been made in lieu of child support. As mutual intention is a legislative requirement, it is not appropriate for the department to try to convince the mother that these payments be accepted.
- b) There were no external costs involved in contacting the mother.