

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
28 February 2017

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Better Management of the Social Welfare System program

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: F10

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 25 and 26, 28 February 2017

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Thursday, 13 April 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: And you agreed with those assumptions?

Mr Hunt: We did, yes.

Senator GALLAGHER: Can you just explain what they were?

Mr Hunt: I do not have those. I would have to take that on notice. You may be able to get more information from human services later in the week. There were a number of different costing models and various components of these measures.

...

Senator GALLAGHER: Did the model allow for incorrect information?

Ms Huxtable: I think you would really need to ask DHS the detail of this. These—

Senator GALLAGHER: Surely Finance have to understand the details of the measure. If you are going to—

Ms Huxtable: We have already taken that on notice. These engagements are—

Senator GALLAGHER: It is the biggest savings measure announced in MYEFO and—

Senator Cormann: But this is not our portfolio responsibility. We have, obviously, the role that I have already described. If you want us to go into the details of what are measures in other portfolio areas, then the only thing we can do for you is to take it on notice.

Answer:

The assumptions provided by the Department of Human Services included:

- the number of compliance reviews to be conducted;
- the percentage of reviews expected to result in a debt being raised, and the average dollar value of the debt;
- the percentage of reviews expected to result in a downward variation to the fortnightly payment rate, and the average dollar value of the variation;
- the percentage of reviews expected to result in a cancellation, and the average fortnightly dollar value of cancellations; and
- the administrative cost of implementing the measures.