

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: School Enrolment and Attendance Measure

Question reference number: HS 24

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard CA page 113

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Question:

a) **Senator SIEWERT** - Can you tell me the expenditure to date?

Ms Drayton - On the information that I have here, I might need to take the question on notice. But I can give you some of the information that I have here with me tonight if that will help.

Senator SIEWERT - Yes, that would be great. Thank you.

Ms Drayton - It is just in relation to Centrelink.

Senator SIEWERT - Yes.

Ms Drayton - For the year 2008-09, it was \$15,209,000; for 2009-10, it was \$3,934,000; and for 2010-11, it was \$2,366,000.

Senator SIEWERT - I presume that the cost in the first year was the set-up cost?

Ms Drayton - Certainly, and there was quite a bit of IT involved with that.

b) **Senator SIEWERT** - I appreciate that. Thank you. This is probably a question that I need to direct at FaHCSIA. Have you been involved in any evaluation of the program yet?

Ms Drayton - DEEWR is responsible, with FaHCSIA, for the evaluation and we have certainly had informal discussions with them, but not through a formal evaluation process at this point in time - though we would expect that there would be input from Centrelink in relation to that.

Senator SIEWERT - Yes; that is why I was asking whether you have been. In terms of the 120, is it possible to tell me whether those children and families are cycling through?

Ms Drayton - I have not got that with me tonight; I will take that on notice. I am certainly aware of at least one case where a customer has returned twice, but I do not have the totals so I would have to take that on notice.

Mr Sandison - Senator, do you just want the number of customers with more than one suspension?

Senator SIEWERT - Yes. I am trying to look at what this is actually accomplishing, if people keep cycling through - whether it is achieving its objective....

Answer:

a) This question was answered at Senate Estimates 24 February 2011.

b) As at 1 February 2011, four customers have been suspended on more than one occasion under the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure.