

## Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Unplanned Leave

**Question reference number:** HS 54

**Senator:** Fifield

**Type of question:** Hansard CA Page 80

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 8 April 2011

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

**Senator FIFIELD** - Given the stressful nature of the work, do you have any particular issues with excessive sick leave, absenteeism or—

**Ms Godwin** - We certainly have unplanned leave, of course, as do all agencies. I guess I could say that we would always prefer the unplanned leave to be lower than it is; but it is certainly a feature of the program as well.

**Senator FIFIELD** - Would that unplanned leave be higher throughout the CSA than, say, the core department or—

**Ms Godwin** - I would have to take that on notice.

#### **Answer:**

The rate of unscheduled absence over the previous 12 months is higher in the Child Support Program (CSP) compared to the Department of Human Services (DHS) core department.

The current rate of unscheduled absence per full time employee (FTE) over the previous 12 month period March 2010 to February 2011 is:

CSP:	15.44 days per FTE
DHS (core department):	10.82 days per FTE

Unscheduled absence is inclusive of all personal sick and carers leave (paid and unpaid), compassionate and bereavement leave, workers compensation, purchased sick leave and unauthorised absence, as defined by Australian Public Service Commission.