

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 14 FEBRUARY 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Human Services Portfolio**

**Topic:** Centrelink: compliance reviews and anti-fraud outcomes

**Question reference number:** HS 26

**Senator:** Fifield

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 5 April 2013

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

- a) Please provide for 2010-11 and 2011-12 for Centrelink compliance reviews and anti-fraud outcomes the:
- 1) Number of customers.
  - 2) Number of compliance reviews.
  - 3) Number cancellations or adjustments down.
  - 4) Amount of fortnightly savings.
  - 5) Amount of overpayments/debts from review.
  - 6) Amount of all debts raised.
  - 7) Amount of all debts recovered.
  - 8) Number of cases referred to DPP.
  - 9) Number of cases referred to CDPP.
  - 10) Number of prosecutions.
  - 11) Number of convictions.
  - 12) Total cost involved.
- b) Please provide a breakdown for each financial year from 1997-98 to 2011-12, for Centrelink compliance reviews and anti-fraud outcomes:
- 1) The total cost involved for customers referred to the CDPP.
  - 2) The total cost involved for customers prosecuted.
  - 3) The total cost involved for customers convicted.

#### **Answer:**

- a) 1) The number of customers is not readily available. One Centrelink customer may have multiple compliance reviews during a financial year. Identifying individual customers is a manual process, and compiling an answer to this question would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- 2) 2010-11 – 821,831 compliance reviews.  
2011-12 – 480,764 compliance reviews.

- 3) 2010-11 – 58,518 cancellations or adjustments down.  
2011-12 – 67,933 cancellations or adjustments down.
  - 4) 2010-11 – \$35,842,779 in fortnightly savings.  
2011-12 – \$20,381,182 in fortnightly savings.
  - 5) 2010-11 – \$342,524,371 overpayments/debts from review.  
2011-12 – \$272,724,385 overpayments/debts from review.
  - 6) 2010-11 – \$1,691.8 million debts were raised.  
2011-12 – \$1,751.5 million debts were raised.
  - 7) 2010-11 – \$1,093.9 million debts were recovered.  
2011-12 – \$1,149.8 million debts were recovered.
  - 8) The Department only refers cases to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) for prosecution, see question (a)(9).
  - 9) 2010-11 – the Department referred 1,273 cases to the CDPP.  
2011-12 – the Department referred 1,235 cases to the CDPP.
  - 10) The Department does not hold this data. This is held by the CDPP.
  - 11) The Department does not hold this data. This is held by the CDPP.
  - 12) Departmental expenditure for 2010-11 was \$157,524,756.  
Departmental expenditure for 2011-12 was \$165,084,292.
- b) 1) The Department does not record this data.
- 2) The Department does not record this data.
- 3) The Department does not record this data.