

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013**

**Question:** E13-136

**OUTCOME 11:** Mental Health

**Topic:** Mental Health Nurse Incentive Program (MHNIP)

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 129, 13 February 2013

**Senator:** Senator Wright

**Question:**

Is there any possibility that the system could fail such that sessions are paid for and then ultimately it is clear that those sessions have been beyond allocation, and in which case would be the consequences? If you could ask them (Department of Human Services) just in terms of potential issues about whether organisations will be required to refund money that they have received perhaps in error.

**Answer:**

The processing of sessions against the session allocation is monitored very closely. The Department of Human Services advises that there has been no occurrence of overpayment to date, however, should this occur under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, overpayments are required to be recovered.