

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Income Management – Priority Needs

Question reference number: HS 23

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 April 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) How does Centrelink assess whether a proposed deduction by Third Party Organisations (TPO) falls within the definition of “priority needs” under section 123TH of the Social Security Administration Act?
- b) Does Centrelink review a person’s Centrepay deductions when looking at a person’s priority needs for the purposes of income management?

Answer:

- a) Customer Service Officers are required to reference formal support documentation when determining if a proposed deduction falls within the definition of “priority needs”. Formal support documentation has been drafted using information contained in 123TH of the *Social Security Administration Act 1999*.
- b) Yes.