

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: SSAT

Question No: SQ15-000172

Topic: SSAT Process

Hansard page: Written

Senator Xenophon, Nick asked:

Can you advise if there are implications at the SSAT for people who refuse to cooperate during Change of Assessments?

Have such limits as suggested by my constituent been considered?

What fines and penalties are available to the SSAT for providing false or omitted information at hearings?

Answer:

The SSAT Principal Member has the power to direct that a party to a review by the SSAT of a decision about child support no longer be a party to the review if the party fails to comply with an order or direction of the SSAT or of the SSAT Principal Member. The SSAT Principal Member also has powers to obtain information from non-parties. Alternatively, the SSAT may simply draw an adverse inference from a party's failure to provide information or documents as directed.

The SSAT is unable to answer the second question as it does not know what "limits" have been "suggested by [the] constituent".

As a tribunal, the SSAT does not have the power to impose fines and penalties. If there was a *prima facie* case of perjury, the SSAT would refer the matter to a law enforcement authority.