

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Tip-off Line

**Question reference number:** HS 13

**Senator:** Fifield

**Type of question:** Hansard page 98

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 27 July 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Senator FIFIELD: Of those 850 that have been investigated—I appreciate that not all of those would have proven to have had any wrongdoing—how many have led to payments being cancelled or money being repaid?

Mr Withnell: The figures I have do not link to the number of investigations; they link more broadly. I can tell you that 112 of those investigations have been referred to the DPP.

Senator FIFIELD: Of those 112, how many have reached a conclusion?

Mr Withnell: I do not have that figure. I would have to get it from the DPP.

Senator FIFIELD: Do they report back? Do they have reports?

Mr Withnell: They do report back—unfortunately, some can take up to 12 months through the court process.

#### **Answer:**

As at 31 March 2012, 63 cancellations of payment and 404 debts have resulted from the 850 tip-off investigations. Eleven of the 112 investigations referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions have been concluded.