

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Child Support Agency – Staff Privacy Breaches

Question reference number: HS 40

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) How many recorded instances of privacy breaches have there been by Child Support Agency staff in 2011-2012?
- b) What is the detail of these breaches?
- c) How many staff have been formally disciplined as a result of these breaches?
- d) Have any staff been sacked as a result of these breaches?

Answer:

On 1 July 2011, the department integrated to include Centrelink, Medicare Australia, the Child Support Agency and Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services Australia. The following information is provided in relation to staff who work for the Child Support Program.

- a) From 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012, there have been three formal investigations for substantiated privacy breaches.
- b) These investigations relate to unauthorised access to customer information and unauthorised release of departmental information.
- c) All three employees investigated were found to have breached the APS Code of Conduct and were sanctioned accordingly.
- d) No.