

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 42

Topic: Social Security Appeals Tribunal

Hansard Page: 03/06/2013 - CA31

Senator Furner asked:

How many appeals from Indigenous persons have been made to the SSAT?

Answer:

According to the SSAT's case management system, 164 applicants identified as Indigenous in the period from 1 July 2012 to 31 March 2013. Four of the applications related to child support.

This may be an understatement because few applicants use the application form which asks an applicant whether he or she is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Where an application is made orally, the registry may omit to ask the applicant that question. Also, answering the question on an application form or orally is voluntary. It cannot be assumed from a non-response that an applicant is not Indigenous.