

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Review measure of DSP recipients

Question reference number: HS 30

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Hansard page 13, 6 June 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator CAMERON: What is the extent or limit of your powers to undertake medical reviews on DSP recipients?

Ms Campbell: When you say 'the extent of our powers' do you mean our capability?

Senator CAMERON: What do you have? Do you have capabilities or do you have powers? You have got powers; you can direct people to do it.

Ms Campbell: Are you talking about our staff capability?

Senator CAMERON: I am talking about: what legislative basis do you have to pull them in to do this?

Ms Golightly: As you point out, we do have power to ask people to come in for their review under the Social Security Act. We do that now.

Senator CAMERON: Maybe if you can just give me details of those powers, on notice if you would like.

Answer:

The department can require a person to undergo medical, physical or psychological examination under section 63 of the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*. This section of the Act provides for examinations for the following payments:

- Disability Support Payment;
- Parenting Payment;
- Youth Allowance;
- Newstart Allowance;
- Sickness Allowance;
- Special Benefit; and
- Mobility Allowance.