

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Australian Hearing – Cochlear Speech Processor upgrade

Question reference number: HS 6

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 16

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: But you have only ‘turned away’ – sorry, they are not quite the right words – there are only six people that have missed out. The others may well have self-selected when they looked at the criteria. Would that be right?

Ms Scanlan: They were the people who had actually contacted us to make a complaint. There may be other people who had asked for a review and who were not successful in obtaining the upgrade, but I would have to take that on notice to get the actual figure.

Answer:

New clinical criteria were introduced in early March 2015. At that time there were 569 applications on hand, of which 495 were declined based on clinical assessment of the new criteria.

Since the commencement of the new candidacy criteria, there have been a further 155 applications for upgrades. Of these 155 applications, five were declined as the clients did not meet the new candidacy criteria.