

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Budget Measure Compliance - WPIT

Question reference number: HS 19

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 52

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Question:

Mr Withnell: With the budget measure most of the savings are historic overpayments, so they are overpayments that have already occurred. Those savings, in a sense, are retrospective because they have already occurred. In terms of benefits going forward there is a small amount of funding within the compliance measure which allows us to take advantage into the future of the developments in the welfare payment infrastructure transformation program.

Senator SIEWERT: I will come back to the historic overpayments in a moment. Is that the \$20 million?

Mr Withnell: Of which? I am not clear on your question.

Senator SIEWERT: Is that money allowing you to take advantage of the new system?

Mr Withnell: It is a relatively small amount. I do not have the exact figure. I could get the exact figure for you on notice to break it down.

Senator SIEWERT: I heard \$20 million being thrown around so I apologise if that is a misleading figure. Are you able to provide it before we finish?

Mr Withnell: Those that allow us to take advantage of the developments in the WPIT program. We can certainly provide that.

Answer:

The ICT funding provided to the department for the compliance measure is \$21.6 million over four years.

The ICT functionality for the compliance measure will allow the department to modernise its compliance systems. These systems are separate to, but linked with, the welfare payments systems that support service delivery. The Welfare Payment Infrastructure Transformation programme will replace the legacy welfare payments systems and will be complemented by the functionality and capability to be delivered through the compliance measure strategy.