

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Enterprise Agreement Negotiations

**Question reference number:** HS 24

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Hansard page 71

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Ms Talbot: The total productivity figure is approximately \$238 million.

Senator CAMERON: Over three years?

Ms Talbot: Yes.

Senator CAMERON: So, that is transfer of entitlements and wages from workers of \$238 million over three years back to the department. What was the figure for the wage increase over those three years? Do we have that?

Mr Hutson: The way in which the bargaining policy works is that—

Senator CAMERON: I am not asking you about that.

Mr Hutson: I would be approximately—

Senator CAMERON: I have heard people trying to explain how this bizarre bargaining policy works in various estimates. I really do not need you, Mr Hutson, to try to tell me again because it has changed again.

Senator Payne: The officials are trying their best to help you.

Senator CAMERON: I do not need their help.

Senator Payne: To provide the information for which you are asking.

Senator CAMERON: Yes. I have asked one simple question.

Senator Payne: We are endeavouring to identify that.

Senator CAMERON: What is the value of the wage increases over three years that were on offer in February?

Mr Hutson: I do not have the exact number with me, but that would be pretty much close to the value of the productivity.

#### **Answer:**

The department's proposed pay offer tabled in February 2015 is no longer current. It included a general pay increase of 4.15 per cent over three years and would have cost \$236.9 million. This pay offer will be superseded by a revised offer.