

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Child Support – allegations in last six months

Question reference number: HS 35

Senator: Xenophon

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In the past 6 months:

- a) How many parents have made an allegation with respect to the other parent providing false, misleading and/or reckless information?
- b) How many of those allegations have been referred to the Department's Special Investigation Unit?
- c) How many of those allegations have referred to the CDPP with respect to S119 or the 'Registration' Act and S159 and 159A of the 'Assessment' Act?

Answer:

- a) The department does not collect and record every claim that the other parent has acted in a fraudulent, misleading or reckless manner because such claims are usually resolved in the normal process of the decision maker obtaining and weighing all available evidence.
- b) The Serious Non-compliance (SNC) Intelligence Analysis Unit received 94 referrals for assessment in the past six months in relation to allegations with respect to the other parent providing false, misleading and/or reckless information. Of these, four matters were referred for investigation.
- c) No matters have been specifically referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) under section 119 of the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988* or section 159 of the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989*. However, in the last six months, one matter was referred to the CDPP under section 136.1(1) of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* that originated with respect to section 159 of the *Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989*.