

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Act of Grace Payments

Question reference number: HS 42

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Are there any time-frames or Key Performance Indicators for processing Act of Grace Payments?
- b) How many claims are currently being processed?
- c) How long have current claims taken to finalise?
- d) Of the claims that have yet to be finalised, how long have the claims been under consideration?
- e) How many claims were made in each of the last three financial years (including 2014-15)?
- f) How many were granted, or rejected in each of the last three financial years?
- g) What has been the cost in each of the past three financial years?
- h) Provide the number of Act of Grace claims lodged in each state and territory for each of the last three financial years (including 2014-15)?
- i) Provide an overview of the claims approved, and rejected in 2014-15?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Finance is responsible for processing Act of Grace Payments. Under section 65 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* the Minister for Finance is the responsible Minister and has the power to make an Act of Grace payment. That power is delegated to officials within Finance. Requests regarding Act of Grace Payments should be made to the Department of Finance.
- b) - i) See above.