

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1.12 – Programme Support for Outcome 1 Question No: SQ15-000578**

**Topic: Savings calculations and assumptions used by DHS**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Siewert, Rachel** asked:

How are savings from “overpayments/debts” calculated?

**Answer:**

Savings are calculated using an agreed methodology between the Department of Social Services and the Department of Finance. Assumptions include the level of overpayments that will be detected and debts raised, their expected value and the expected level of recovery across the forward estimates including a provision for bad or doubtful debt. The assumptions are developed through analysis of the administrative data and vary across payments and measures.