

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - 20 OCTOBER 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Australian Government Disaster Payments - debt recovery

Question reference number: HS 31

Senator: Furner

Type of question: Hansard page 117

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FURNER: Unfortunately, some fraudulent claims have been identified. Would you update the committee on those, particularly the compliance work that Centrelink has been doing in respect of those claims for disaster payments and, in particular, how many incorrect fraudulent claims were made and how much of this money has been recovered?

Mr Popple: As of 13 September, 10,800 cases have been referred for review across all the areas that have been affected, with a total of \$5.2 million in debts raised identified. Recovery to date, I will have to take on notice.

Answer:

As at 31 October 2011, the Department of Human Services had recovered \$1,760,829 in the Centrelink Master Program from total debts raised of \$5,565,127. The outstanding debt to be recovered is \$3,804,298.