

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

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

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

**Topic:** Co-location

**Question reference number:** HSW 4

**Senator:** Williams

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

- a) Is it true that the co-location strategy and the funding of it are under review and that each co-location is now being reviewed on a case by case basis?
- b) Are the wishes of the local community in which their respective businesses are situated, particularly in country and regional locations being taken into account when making these decisions?
- c) Could the money being spent on these proposed co-locations be better spent on front line services in the area of staff numbers, training and career development?

#### **Answer:**

- a) No.
- b) Yes. Engagement with community organisations and third party organisations is undertaken.
- c) Funding of co-location in service centres has been provided under 2011-2012 Federal Budget (Extending services through Medicare and Centrelink one-stop-shops initiative).

This initiative will improve access to government services by expanding the range of services available in any one location, and in particular expand the number of outlets able to provide Medicare services.