

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Departmental Telecommunications Contract

Question reference number: HS 5

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard pages 93-94

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIFIELD: Does the department expect to save money on the basis of this contract compared to what otherwise would have been in place?

Mr Sterrenberg: Yes, it does.

Senator FIFIELD: What is the saving over the timeframe that is relevant?

Mr Sterrenberg: It is significant. Some of the details are obviously commercial in confidence.

Senator FIFIELD: Obviously we do not want to breach any—

Senator Kim Carr: There would be some reluctance to go to the detail of the budget.

Senator FIFIELD: Whatever you can comfortably and appropriately say, which may not be much—

Senator Kim Carr: We can take it on notice.

Answer:

The Department's new telecommunication arrangements consolidate over 20 existing contracts for the former agencies of Centrelink, Medicare Australia, Child Support and the former Department of Human Services.

The consolidation will result in significant savings for the department over the contract period. For Commercial in Confidence reasons we are unable to divulge these savings. It is expected there will also be savings realised in relation to data services procured under the Internet Based Network Connections panel administered by the Australian Government Information Office within Department of Finance and Deregulation. These savings will flow directly back to Government.