

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Fraud investigations – aged care

Question reference number: HS 8

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Type of question: Hansard page 101

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Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: In relation to investigating fraud in aged care, do you have any statistics and any prosecutions? Also do you have any debt recovery statistics in relation to aged care?

Ms Campbell: I do not think we have anything with us.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS: Could you take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department is jointly responsible with the Department of Health and Ageing for aged care compliance. The Department of Health and Ageing undertakes audits and investigations into the quality of aged care services, while the Department reviews the accuracy of payments.

The Department has not undertaken any prosecutions in relation to aged care payments in the past five years.

During compliance activities, instances of under and overpayments due to incorrect recording of admission, discharge and hospital leave dates are identified. Results from the last two full financial years are displayed in the following table:

	2010-11	2011-12
Number of facilities reviewed	69	50
Underpayments	\$222,000	\$592,000
Overpayments	\$154,000	\$615,000

Note: In 2010-11, Community Care Facilities were selected randomly.

In 2011-12, Residential Care Facilities were selected based on risk criteria, including accuracy of admission dates, discharge dates and hospital leave dates.

Facilities may have had both under and overpayments. These adjustments are offset against the next claim and no debt is raised.