

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Business Integrity Division - staffing

Question reference number: HS 12

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard pages 102-103

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Question:

Senator FIFIELD: How many Centrelink staff are currently employed whose prime role is fraud? I know every Centrelink staff member could potentially be involved in fraud detection and identification, but how many people's primary role is fraud prevention and identification?

CHAIR: Senator, do you mean in Centrelink or Human Services?

Senator FIFIELD: I am going to ask Centrelink and Human Services.

Ms Campbell: Mr Withnell's area does serious fraud compliance and, primarily, the Centrelink master programs. He would be able to tell you how many staff are in his division, and that may be a useful measure.

Senator FIFIELD: And your division is organisation wide?

Mr Withnell: Sorry, Senator, I missed the question.

Senator FIFIELD: I feel we should not need to speak at this level. I wish the volume could be turned up on the speakers. It happens in every committee room at every estimates. Sorry; it is just an ongoing frustration. There we go—it has been done.

Mr Withnell, is part of your area of responsibility the organisation as a whole, rather than specifically Centrelink?

Mr Withnell: It covers the Centrelink programs, some of the child support program, as we discussed earlier, and internal fraud.

Senator FIFIELD: What is the number of people at your command?

Mr Withnell: I do not have the exact figure here. I will take it on notice to give you an exact figure rather than an estimate.

Answer:

The number of staff working in the Business Integrity Division as at 30 September 2012 was 2,477.