

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Self-initiated Work

Question reference number: HS 61

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Does the department have a program for staff to engage in self-initiated work (projects, plans etc. that are devised by staff without being directed by the minister's office or department management)?
- b) Please list all ongoing projects. For each, please detail:
- c) When did the project commence?
- d) When is it expected to conclude?
- e) What will the total cost of the project be?
- f) Where did the money for the project come from?
- g) Where is the project based?

Answer:

- a) The department does not have a staff self-initiated work programme as described.
The department has an innovation programme, which offers all staff a forum to suggest ideas to improve departmental operations. Once submitted, ideas are allocated to the appropriate areas of the department for consideration and possible implementation as part of ongoing business improvements as appropriate. As part of the programme, business teams can also seek staff suggestions on specific problems and initiatives, and this input can be incorporated into project planning.
- b) – g) This information is not presently available. The capability for the department to centrally track each individual staff member's idea through to specific project outputs is currently being considered for future development.