

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Non-conventional therapies

**Question reference number:** HS 75

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Since 7 September 2013:

- a) Are non-conventional therapies, for staff or ministerial use, able to be provided by the department/agency? (Including, but not limited to: Music Therapy, Hypnosis, Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathy, Naturopathy, etc) If yes:
  - 1) What is the process by which these therapies can be approved?
  - 2) Who are they available to?
  - 3) Please detail the reasons the therapies able to be provided (e.g. Work Place Agreement, recommended by a report to the department, etc)?
- b) Has the department/agency paid for any non-conventional therapy for any Minister or staff? If yes:
  - 1) What therapies have been provided?
  - 2) What were they used to treat?
  - 3) What was the cost of the therapy?

#### **Answer:**

- a) Yes, but only for departmental staff.
  - 1) The therapies are approved by the relevant delegate following an assessment of the work-related injury.
  - 2) Employees with work-related injuries.
  - 3) The department is required to comply with its obligations under the *Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* in its treatment of employees with work-related injuries.
- b) No.