

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

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

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Public Tip-offs

**Question reference number:** HS 141

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

For the year 2013-14:

- a) How many tip-offs were made to the Centrelink fraud line in?
- b) How many tip offs led to payment reductions?
- c) What savings arose from this program?
- d) How many tip-offs resulted in no payment reductions?
- e) How many tip offs related to alleged “member of a couple” matters?
- f) How many cases investigated resulted in no change in rates of payment?
- g) How many staff were involved in this activity?
- h) What was the cost of running this program?
- i) How many tip-offs in the period led to convictions by the CDPP?

#### **Answer:**

- a) There were 48,748 tip-offs made to the Centrelink fraud line in 2013-14.
- b) The department is not able to disaggregate the number of tip-offs made to the Centrelink fraud line that led to payment reductions.
- c) The department is not able to disaggregate the savings from tip-offs made to the Centrelink fraud line.
- d) The department is not able to disaggregate the number of tip-offs made to the Centrelink fraud line that resulted in no payment reductions.
- e) The department is not able to disaggregate the number of tip-offs made to the Centrelink fraud line that related to alleged “member of a couple” matters.
- f) The department is not able to disaggregate the number of tip-offs made to the Centrelink fraud line that resulted in no change in rates of payment.

- g) The department is not able to disaggregate the number of staff involved in activity related to the Centrelink fraud line from those staff working on other tip-off cases.
- h) The cost of processing tip-offs from all sources was an estimated \$2.4 million. It is not possible to accurately disaggregate the cost of running the Centrelink Fraud tip-off line from other tip-off costs because all tip-offs, regardless of source or channel, are initially processed by the same team. Approximately 50 per cent of all tip-offs received come through the Centrelink fraud tip-off line.
- i) The department does not report conviction data. This is reported by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The department is not able to disaggregate the number of tip-offs from the Centrelink fraud line that led to convictions by the CDPP.