

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Social Security Prosecutions

Question reference number: HS 168

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

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Question:

With reference to Social Security Prosecutions and people receiving social security payments, in 2013-14:

- a) How many people did the Department of Human Services referred to the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecutions (CDPP)?
- b) How many were convicted?
- c) Of those convicted:
 - 1) Provide a breakdown by gender.
 - 2) Provide a breakdown by payment type.
 - 3) Provide a breakdown by age.
 - 4) Provide a breakdown by state and territory of those prosecuted.
 - 5) What was the total amount of funds for those who were convicted by the CDPP?
 - 6) What was the average amount involved?
- d) For 2013-14, what is the percentage of those convicted for social security fraud of the total number of income support recipients over the period (in number and percent)?
- e) For each year since 2003-04, provide:
 - 1) How many Centrelink recipients referred for prosecution to the CDPP?
 - 2) How many of these were prosecuted by the CDPP?

Answer:

In the financial year of 2013-14:

- a) The Department of Human Services (the department) referred 1,071 Centrelink matters to the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecutions (CDPP).
- b) The department does not hold prosecution data. This is held by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP).

- c) The department does not hold prosecution data. This is held by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP).
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e) 1) Since 2003-04 the department has referred the following number of Centrelink recipients to the CDPP:

2003–04	4,471
2004–05	4,702
2005–06	3,961
2006–07	5,261
2007–08	5,312
2008–09	5,082
2009–10	4,608
2010–11	1,273
2011–12	1,235
2012–13	1,165
2013–14	1,071

2) The department does not hold prosecution data. This is held by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP).