

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 133

Topic: Departmental Staff Misconduct

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. Please provide a copy of the departmental staff code of conduct.
2. Have there been any identified breaches of this code of conduct by departmental staff?
 - (a) If yes, list the breaches identified, broken by staffing classification level.
 - (b) If yes, what remedy was put in place to manage the breach? If no remedy has been put in place, why not?
 - (c) If yes, when was the breach identified? By whom? When was the Minister made aware?
 - (d) If yes, were there any legal ramifications for the department or staff member? Please detail.

Answer:

1. The Department of Social Services (DSS) employees are bound by the *APS Code of Conduct* under section 13 of the *Public Service Act 1999*, which is available at <http://www.apsc.gov.au/aps-employment-policy-and-advice/aps-values-and-code-of-conduct/code-of-conduct>
2. From 4 June 2014 up to 31 August 2014, DSS did not determine that any DSS employee had breached the APS Code of Conduct.