

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Repayment of child support overpayments

Question reference number: HS 58

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What steps are being taken to ensure reasonable requests for the repayment of overpayments in Child Support are being met?

Answer:

The Department of Human Services uses the same methodology for determining how much a parent should repay, irrespective of the debt being an overpayment owed by a receiving parent or a child support debt owed by a paying parent. As part of the Department's debt repayment methodology, the Department will seek a commitment from the parent to repay the amount in full; a partial lump sum with the balance through instalments; or an instalment arrangement only.

Where there is an ongoing liability, the Department will offset the overpayment against the ongoing liability. Where the case has ended or there is no ongoing liability, the Department will seek to recover the debt by entering into a voluntary arrangement (as offsetting is not an option).