

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Question reference number: HS 118

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 was the basis of 50% of AAT Secretary applications being rejected?

Answer:

It is not correct that 50 per cent of Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) Secretary applications were rejected. In the 2014/15 financial year, 50 per cent of AAT applications made by the relevant Secretary were unchanged decisions. In 89 per cent (16 cases) of the unchanged decisions the relevant Secretary withdrew the application following further evidence being obtained. The AAT decided against the relevant Secretary in 11 per cent (2 cases) of the unchanged decisions. The relevant Secretary in each case is the Secretary of any department where the Minister is responsible, under the Administrative Arrangements Order, for part of the social security laws that allow decisions to be appealed to the AAT.