

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Personal Contact Interviews

Question reference number: HS 178

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

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Question:

The 2015 Budget states that “personal contact interviews will no longer be required as part of the new jobactive arrangements as job seekers will be required to stay connected with their jobactive providers. Ceasing the interviews is estimated to save \$40.3 million over four years. Does the saving to date match the estimated savings?”

Answer:

With the introduction of the new Employment Services Model on 1 July 2015, Employment Services Providers assumed responsibility for setting and monitoring job search efforts. From 1 July 2015, this change resulted in the cessation of regular Personal Contact Interviews that were previously conducted by the Department of Human Services.

As outlined in the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statement, savings of \$40.3 million over four years have been returned to Government.