

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 14 February 2006

Question: HS30

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Medicare Australia - Briefs to the DPP

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR LUDWIG asked on 14/2/2006:

1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05?
 - a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned?
2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to:
 - a. bring charges against the accused party
 - b. formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges: and
 - c. return the brief for no further action.
3. Did the department or agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
 - a. If so, give details.
4. Did the department or agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
 - a. If so, give details.

Answer:

1. The number of briefs referred for prosecution by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the number of prosecutions by the Director of Public Prosecutions are contained in Medicare Australia's (formerly the Health Insurance Commission) Annual Reports.
 - 2001-02, page 62;
 - 2002-03, page 67;
 - 2003-04, page 95; and
 - 2004-05, page 201.
2. The detailed information required to answer the question is not readily available. To obtain this information would be resource intensive and Medicare Australia cannot justify the level of expenditure that would be required.

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3. No formal complaints were forwarded to the CDPP.
4. No informal complaints were forwarded to the CDPP.

This answer required 11 hours at a cost of \$460 to prepare.