

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Questions: HS144-145

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services - Northern Territory Intervention

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR COONAN asked on 22/02/2008:

HS144: What consultation has there been between the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Minister for Human Services regarding the expansion of the intervention?

HS145: What assurances has the Minister for Human Services given to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs that the Department of Human Services is capable of properly administering this expansion?

Answer:

HS 144: The Minister for Human Services, the Hon Joe Ludwig MP, holds regular meetings with the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, to discuss the delivery of services by the Human Services Portfolio. These discussions cover a wide range of policy matters, including Indigenous affairs and welfare payments reform and the capacity of the Human Services Portfolio to implement associated programs.

HS 145: Resources required to implement policy are discussed with the Department of Finance and Deregulation and, if necessary, considered by Cabinet.

Like other significant government measures, the intervention is being closely monitored with particular attention being paid to implementation. This measure is also supported by additional governance arrangements.

The Department of Human Services and Centrelink are also represented on an officials' working group on income management, which is led by FaHCSIA.