

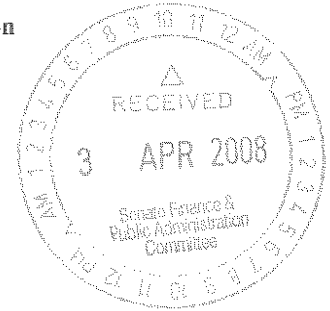
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Question: HS84

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Fraud - Cash Economy

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR COONAN asked on 22/02/2008:

Please provide particulars of mechanisms to manage the impact of the cash economy and to prevent and detect and investigate cases of suspected welfare fraud.

Answer:

Centrelink has established a national strategy to minimise the impacts of the cash economy on the integrity of social security payments. The objectives are to detect and investigate situations involving social security customers receiving, but failing to declare non social security income.

Centrelink has established dedicated Fraud Investigation Teams (FIT) in each State and Territory. The role of FIT employees includes detection and investigation of fraud associated with the cash economy. Intelligence is gathered on industries that have been identified as high risk, both nationally and locally, information garnered from multiple sources and, where appropriate, field operations are initiated. Other functions include desk-based reviews, undeclared family circumstances investigations and tip-off investigations.