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: HS90

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Fraud & Compliance

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR COONAN asked on 22/02/2008:

What specific steps align control for fraud and compliance risks for overseas recipients with those that apply in Australia?

Answer:

Risk assessments are conducted on overseas customers to identify customers with a profile that indicates they are at risk of being paid incorrectly (similar to Service Profiling on customers inside Australia).

Existing fraud intelligence capability is utilised to identify overseas customers suspected of receiving incorrect payments. This intelligence includes tip-offs and the use of financial intelligence (AUSTRAC data).

Centrelink accesses some international data, for example, the acquisition of commercially available overseas death data and data held by Social Security Agreement partners.

Centrelink has also established a dedicated team to undertake fraud and compliance activity relating to overseas customers.