

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 9 FEBRUARY 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Unemployed carers

Question reference number: HS4

Senator: KROGER

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 87, 9 February 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator KROGER – How many people would there be who have a partner who is defaulting on child support obligations and are unemployed?

Ms Godwin—I do not know the answer to that.

Senator KROGER—Full-time carers of children who have no personal income other than their—

Ms Godwin—Are you talking about receiving or paying parents?

Senator KROGER—Receiving.

Ms Godwin—I think we would have that information, but I do not have it with me. The one thing I would say is that I am not sure whether we could break it right down to their being unemployed, because it would be linked to whether they are the recipients of Centrelink payments, and we do have information on that.

Senator KROGER—If you could take it on notice, that would be good.

Answer:

As at 31 January 2010, there were 140,963 receiving parents who were in receipt of a Centrelink income support payment (excluding Family Tax Benefit) and are owed outstanding child support payments. Of these, 25,200 have child support cases that have ended but arrears are still outstanding.

The value of the outstanding child support payments owed to these receiving parents is \$526 million, of which approximately \$97 million relates to the ended cases.