

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 9 FEBRUARY 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Number of children with respect to child support debt

Question reference number: HS6

Senator: COLLINS

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Question:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS – Just before you go on with these statistics, is there a way that you can relate them per child or to the number of children with respect to whom we are actually considering the debt?

Ms Godwin—I imagine there is, except that, as I say, given that some of the debt goes back 21 years and some of those children are now themselves adults—

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—I am just wondering in terms of the ongoing statistics—

Ms Godwin—In terms of ongoing liabilities, we certainly have a bit of a sense of that. I would need to take it on notice because that is a high level of detail.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—I understand. If you would not mind taking it on notice, that would be good. Thank you.

Answer:

As at 31 January 2010, there were 205,764 active cases with debt totalling \$824 million. These cases currently have 302,349 eligible children. There are also 61,954 ended with arrears cases with debt totalling \$297 million. These cases had 105,279 eligible associated children when active.

Number of children with respect to child support debt			
	Number of cases	Number of children	Total Child Support Debt
Active Child Support Cases	205,764	302,349	\$824 million
Ended cases with arrears	61,954	105,279	\$297 million