

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Australian Hearing

Budget Estimates 26 May 2005

QUESTION NUMBER: HS42
DATE ASKED: 26/05/2005
DATE DUE TABLING: 08/07/2005

SENATOR LUDWIG asked the Minister representing the Minister for Human Services, upon written notice:

1. Regarding the employees that your Department / Agency has identified as having:
 - a) Fluency
 - b) Accredited translator
 - c) Accredited interpreter
2. Of these employees, please indicate what the department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the department and whose is not.

Answer:

1. Australian Hearing does not track / collate information on languages spoken by its employees.
2. The organisation does pay a language allowance "Where, in providing client services the Managing Director determines there is a continuing need to utilise an employees particular language skills for communication, (in languages other than English), and the employee is accredited by the National Accreditation Authority for translators and Interpreters, the employee will be paid a language allowance" of \$558.00 per year.¹

A total of 5 employees are currently being paid the language allowance (4 clinicians, 1 admin).

¹ Australian Hearing Certified Agreement 2004 6.7