

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Public Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 25 May 2006

Question: HS20

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Welfare to Work – Financial Case Management

Hansard Page or Written Question on Notice: F&PA 105

SENATOR WONG asked on 25/5/2006:

Senator WONG—In the PBS on page 81, the figure is \$4.1 million, I presume, for financial case management for income support recipients. Does that relate to payments or simply the administration of the financial case management system? I presume it is not the administered appropriation—it is an agency appropriation. Is that right?

Mr Divall—I understand that the area you are looking at is under the Welfare to Work financial case management for income support recipients on page 81. For the financial year 2006-07 the figure is \$3.81 million.

Senator WONG—I was looking at the total over the forward estimates. I am asking what that appropriation is for. That is not the administered item, is it?

Mr Divall—No.

Senator WONG—That is not the actual notional amounts that will be paid to these people—this is \$4 million to set up the system to get someone else to pay them. Is that basically it?

Mr Divall—It is to set up a system of payment to NGOs for the delivery of financial case management. It also includes some funds for Centrelink to set up systems for payments in relation to the advice that NGOs provide us.

Senator WONG—Are you able to give me on notice a more detailed breakdown of that funding into the different issues that you have just outlined?

Mr Divall—A breakdown of the financials?

Senator WONG—Yes.

Answer:

The funding provided to Centrelink for financial case management (as listed on page 81 of the Department of Human Services Portfolio Budget Statement) comprises approximately 60 per cent for Centrelink to pay service fees to non-government organisations who provide financial case management services, and approximately 40 per cent for providing training to these organisations.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 2 hours and 57 minutes at an estimated cost of \$169.