

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Budget Estimates 2007-08 - May 2007

Question: HS20

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services – Access Card

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Hansard Page F&PA100

SENATOR LUNDY asked on 24/05/2007:

Senator LUNDY—I am sure it was signed off; I was curious as to where the idea came from and what the decision-making process was behind changing the approach to the whole project.

Ms Williams—I do not know, but I presume that the Minister looked at the project and considered it.

Senator LUNDY—Can you tell me when that change was signed off by the Minister?

Ms Hartland—We would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Government has decided not to proceed with the Access Card Program. Details of funding to be returned to the Budget will be provided as part of the forthcoming Budgetary processes.

With respect to the specific question asked by the Senator, the answer is as follows:

The then Minister for Human Services, the Hon Joe Hockey MP, wrote to the then Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Administration on 14 November 2006 seeking agreement to changes to the allocation of access card project funding as a result of the centralisation of project management and procurement activities within the Department of Human Services.

The then Minister for Finance and Administration agreed to these changes in a letter to Minister Hockey dated 4 January 2007.