

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: HS27

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services – Population of the Department / Access Card share

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SENATOR Lundy asked on 24/05/2007:

Mr Dainer—It is. If you had to run a core department with a smaller number of people, there is probably some threshold infrastructure that would be required.

Senator LUNDY—So it might not be a question of just halving it?

Mr Dainer—No. There would be an issue of attribution.

Senator LUNDY—What do you reckon it would be?

Mr Dainer—I could not do that here.

Senator LUNDY—Take it on notice.

Answer:

To more accurately attribute the cost, other than on the basis of user numbers, would require a significant diversion of resources which cannot be justified in this case.