

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Question No. 157

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

In each of the last three financial years, of those Centrelink customers who have been prosecuted by the Director of Public Prosecutions:

- (a) How many of these customers have a legal representative?
- (b) Could we have a breakdown of the range of sentences handed down, broken down by gender and age? The range of sentences are: no conviction; recognisance order; community service order; periodic detention; home detention; full custodial sentence; good behaviour bond; fines, plus any combinations of the above.
- (c) Could we get a breakdown by each state and territory of the sentences handed down?
- (d) Could we get a breakdown by Centrelink area office?
- (e) Could we get a breakdown of the sentences handed down by each local or magistrate's court that hears Social Security prosecution orders?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

(a) - (e) The CDPP's records are not collated in the categories specified in Question on Notice 157. The CDPP has commenced providing sentencing information to the National Judicial College to enable statistical analysis of sentences to be carried out in the future.

Available information in relation to Centrelink referrals is set out in the table below:

Prosecutions conducted by CDPP – gender of defendants

Year	Male	Female	Total
2002-3	1761	1441	3202
2003-4	1715	1683	3398
2004-5	2065	1995	4060

Prosecutions conducted - by state and territory

STATE	2002-3	2003-4	2004-5
NSW & ACT	1156	1164	1330
VIC	694	782	855
QLD	643	772	900
WA	303	347	414
SA	231	194	338
TAS	120	110	130
NT	55	29	93
TOTAL	3202	3398	4060