



Mr Russell Schaffer  
Secretary  
Public Accounts and Audit Committee  
R1-108  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**JCPAA - Question on Notice**

In the hearing on Drought Assistance, held on 13 February 2006, Senator Moore asked two questions of the Department of Human Services.

Enclosed are the questions and the responses prepared by the Department of Human Services.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Dainer".

Chris Dainer  
First Assistant Secretary  
Delivery Analysis and Corporate Division

19 April 2006

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audits**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Review of the Auditor-General's Report No 50, 2004-05**

Hearing of 13 February 2006

On page 10 of the "proof copy" of Hansard, Senator Moore asked the following:

I have one or two questions. Basically, I am wanting to know about your internal audit processes and how they worked on this issue, because our experience is that, when there are external audits of this nature, it is usually said by each agency that your internal processes have already found all the same issues. That was not clear in this one. I am just wanting to hear from each of the agencies.

DHS Response:

As this issue was related to Centrelink's performance, not that of the Department of Human Services, there had been no internal audit activity conducted on this programme.

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audits**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Review of the Auditor-General's Report No 50, 2004-05**

Hearing of 13 February 2006

On page 19 of the "Proof Copy" of Hansard, Senator Moore asked the following:

My previous question about internal reviews and audit processes was going to be picked up before the witnesses left. One aim of this report was to look at the internal assessment processes in all your agencies. I will place it on notice rather than taking up the time of the committee. Can the committee get back from each of the departments the internal assessment and review processes that you are following? Mr Dainer said the review that Human Services did was not stimulated by this audit. That is fine, but I just want to know what internal systems you have to look at such things.

**DHS Response:**

- DHS has an audit committee that oversees the internal audit plan for the core Department, CRS Australia and Child Support Agency. The audit committee does not have responsibility for audit activity in other DHS agencies such as Centrelink and Medicare Australia.
- The internal audit plan addresses the major operational risks for DHS. It is for this reason that issues identified by the ANAO in its audit activity may already be subject to action by the Department.