

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcomes

Question No: 22

Topic: Legal Proceedings

Hansard Page: CA6

Senator Fifield asked:

Could you provide a list of any ongoing legal proceedings that the department is engaged in?

Answer:

In addition to the legal proceedings conducted by Centrelink, the Department is currently involved in five legal proceedings:

Neville Williams v Secretary of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Federal Court of Australia (NSD 1278 of 2010)

The applicant is challenging a decision of the Secretary's delegate, which affirmed a decision of a native title representative body not to provide funding to a native title claim group to conduct Federal Court native title litigation against the State of NSW.

Halls Creek Aboriginal Corporation v Commonwealth

Supreme Court of the Northern Territory (No.128 of 2010)

The applicant has applied to set aside a statutory demand issued by the Department seeking recovery of a debt in relation to Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) grant funds.

Elizabeth Nojin on behalf of Michael Nojin v Commonwealth and Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc.

Federal Court of Australia (VID796/2008)

Michael Nojin contends that he was unlawfully discriminated against by the Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc. by the application of the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool in the assessment of his wage rate. The Commonwealth is alleged to have caused, induced or aided Coffs Harbour Challenge Inc.

Gordon Prior v Commonwealth and Stawell Intertwine Services Inc.

Federal Court of Australia (VID797/2008)

It is contended that Gordon Prior was unlawfully discriminated against by Stawell Intertwine Services Inc. by the application of the Business Services Wage Assessment Tool in the assessment of his wage rate. The Commonwealth is alleged to have caused, induced or aided Stawell.

Chandrankanthi Sluggett v Commonwealth
Federal Magistrates Court ((P)ADG129/2008)

The applicant is a former employee of the Department, alleging that she was unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of her disability while an employee of the Department.