

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 26 FEBRUARY 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question reference number: HS 30

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

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Question:

The Office of Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) conducted an own motion investigation into FOI issues in DHS. In its report dated 2 December 2014 the OAIC made 13 recommendations.

- a) What is the expected timeframe for the implementation of each of the recommendations?
- b) What steps have already been taken to implement the recommendations?

Answer:

- a) The timeframe for the implementation of the recommendations varies as some of the implementation actions are of an ongoing nature. Recommendations 3, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are expected to be implemented by 31 March 2015. Recommendation 1 is expected to be fully implemented by 31 May 2015. Recommendations 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 are expected to be implemented by 30 June 2015.

Recommendation 5 has already been implemented.

Recommendation 13 implementation is ongoing.

- b) The department has established a working group, staffed with executive level officers, which is implementing the recommendations. The working group has undertaken a review and amendment of the FOI Procedures Manual (recommendations 1, 3, 9, 10 and 11) and a review of the content of the department's FOI web page (recommendation 5). It has also been working to progress implementation of the other recommendations.