

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Audits

Question reference number: HS 136

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 April 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) How many audits and investigations (by program) did the Department conduct into suspect fraudulent activity in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-2015, and so far in 2015-16?
 - 1) How many of these investigations lead to prosecution by the CDPP?
 - 2) In how many cases was the department's determination challenged?
 - 3) Please provide details of the reasons for why the outcomes of prosecutions are not assessed or analysed by DHS.
- b) How many health professionals were audited by the department in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-2015, and so far in 2015-16?
 - 1) How many health professionals were required to present documentation to the Department in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-2015, and so far in 2015-16?
 - 2) How many of these audits led to prosecution of the health professional?
 - 3) In how many cases did the health professional seek a review of the Departments decision?
 - 4) Please provide details of the reasons for why the outcomes of audits are not assessed or analysed by DHS.
 - 5) How many audits settled between in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-2015, and so far in 2015-16 were from audits commenced in previous years?
 - 6) How many audits are still ongoing?

Answer:

a)

Year	Centrelink		Child Support		Medicare
	Investigations	Evaluations	Investigations	Evaluations	Investigations
2013-14	2,498	2,770	305	Not applicable	304
2014-15	2,112	1,843	65	188	169
2015-16*	817	885	16	24	*

*FYTD to 31 January 2016

- 1) The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) is the independent prosecution service established to prosecute alleged offences against Commonwealth law and, as such, all data relating to prosecution action should be sourced from the CDPP.
 - 2) The CDPP is the independent prosecution service established to prosecute alleged offences against Commonwealth law and, as such, all data relating to prosecution action should be sourced from the CDPP.
 - 3) The Department works closely with the CDPP ensure that appropriate matters are referred for consideration of prosecution action. Past prosecution outcomes are a relevant factor in the Department's decision to refer a matter to the CDPP. The Department considers trends in prosecution outcomes as input to case selection, brief development and prosecution referral. The Department does conduct analysis of feedback provided by the CDPP on a regular basis.
- b) These questions should be referred to the Department of Health.