

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 2 MARCH 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Child Dental Benefit Schedule - notifications

**Question reference number:** 30 (HS 31)

**Senator:** Griff

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 21 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Ms Edwards advised 1.4 million letters were issued or due to be issued this year, yet the Health Department (in Estimates on March 1 in answer to a question from me) advised about 3 million children are eligible (and its annual report and Budget statement have a “target” of 2.4m children per year).

- a) Please advise the reason for this apparent discrepancy in eligible children and issued notifications.
- b) What proportion of these notifications were only sent electronically, through the MyGov portal, and how many were sent as hard copy letters?

#### **Answer:**

- a) The Child Dental Benefit Schedule (CDBS) letters are issued to families, teenagers or approved care organisations if the child or children under their care is/are eligible for the CDBS. Often there are multiple eligible children from the same family or care organisation and only one letter is issued per family or care organisation.
- b) Of the 1.4 million letters, approximately 800,000 are hard copy letters and 600,000 are sent via the myGov portal.