

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Improper Use of BasicsCard – Advice to the Northern Territory
Coordinator General

Question reference number: HS 33

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard pages 111-112

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 22 July 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIFIELD: In this particular situation was the Northern Territory Coordinator-General spoken to?

Ms Ramsey: We have regular contact with Mr Beadman around a range of issues, yes.

Senator FIFIELD: Upon discussion was there anything to substantiate what was in the—

Ms Ramsey: I cannot confirm. I would have to take on notice to talk to the staff who spoke to him about this particular instance, but I can say that I have regular conversations with Mr Beadman myself, but not on this particular instance.

Senator FIFIELD: But your staff have on this particular instance?

Ms Ramsey: Yes. I need to take that on notice and confirm that in this particular instance they have gotten back to him.

Senator FIFIELD: This being the particular instance that I am specifically asking about.

Mr Tidswell: In each and every circumstance the CEO and I ask the question virtually as soon as it appears in the media. We are conscious of the public scrutiny and the importance of making sure that this does not occur. We do not sit on our hands. We look into it. What we cannot confirm is that Mr Beadman was directly spoken to and provided further information.

Senator FIFIELD: Could you take that on notice?

Ms Ramsey: Yes.

Answer:

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs responded to this particular article. In this case, the Northern Territory Coordinator General was not spoken to by Centrelink.