

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Child Support Agency (CSA) – Travel Ban

Question reference number: HSW 3

Senator: Cash

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

I refer to an article in the Sydney Morning Herald, of the 4th of September last year, entitled "*Labor MPs helped lift travel ban on Kazal,*" which alleges that in December 2007 then NSW Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Tony Stewart, and the Federal Member for Werriwa, Mr Chris Hayes, lobbied the Child Support Agency, to overturn a travel ban on Mr Charif Kazal, who had been banned from travelling after failing to meet child support payments. The lobbying was to allow Mr Kazal to travel overseas with then NSW Tourism Minister, Matt Brown.

1. According to the *SMH*, Mr Hayes, the Member for Werriwa, said he would contact Mr Joe Ludwig, the then Minister for Human Services. Was Mr Ludwig or his office contacted by anyone on this matter: if so, by whom?
2. What action, if any, occurred as a result of this contact? Did the Minister or his office, directly or indirectly contact the CSA on this issue: if so can we have the details of this contact?

Answer:

1. According to the records of the Child Support Agency there is no record that the then Minister for Human Services or his office received a Ministerial representation on behalf of Mr Kazal.
2. According to the records of the Child Support Agency, the then Minister or his office did not directly or indirectly contact the Child Support Agency on this issue.