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13 June 2012

Senator Claire Moore
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email

Dear Senator

**Clarification of evidence to Estimates Hearing
28 May 2012**

I am writing to clarify one aspect of my evidence to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in relation to cross portfolio issues.

In answering a question from Senator Siewert about the quantum of the fall in the number of applications for review by the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, I said:

I am looking at the annual report of the tribunal. I am looking at page 8 and it says there was a 12 per cent decrease in relation to applications for review of decisions made in Centrelink. When that decrease was combined with the decrease in the previous year, there had been a 40 per cent drop.

I should have gone on to say that the 40 per cent drop was in four payment types which had accounted for 54% of the applications for review (excluding child support decisions) received by the Tribunal in 2008-09: namely, age pension, family tax benefit, newstart allowance and youth allowance.

The number of applications for review of decisions, by payment type, received by the Tribunal in each financial year from 2008-09 to 2010-11 is set out in a table on page 41 of the Tribunal's Annual Report for 2010-11.

At the hearing, I took on notice a number of questions regarding the profile and outcome of applications for review by the Tribunal in the current financial year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Macdonnell', written in a cursive style.

Jane Macdonnell
Principal Member