

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Parenting Payment – Media Article 14 May 2017

Question reference number: HS 17 (SQ17-000098)

Senator: Pratt

Type of question: Hansard pages 122-123

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator PRATT: With your estimate of 14,000 people—you now have the documentation in front of you—is that based on tip-offs? How has that been worked out?

Ms Campbell: We are just trying to find how that was developed. I am sorry; I had not seen this before. We might need to take that on notice and get back to you on that.

Senator PRATT: So you do not know the source of the data that is in that news article?

Mr Creech: We need to check.

Ms Campbell: We have lots of different payments and lots of different numbers. Unfortunately, I cannot remember all of them, so we will take that on notice and come back to you.

Answer:

The Department of Social Services provided the data for the media article—this was incorrectly attributed to the Department of Human Services. The Department of Social Services has confirmed that the figure reported in the media was derived using a combination of data sources including Random Sample Surveys and debt data to inform the development of the measure.