

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Community Development Program - investigations

Question reference number: HS 2 (SQ17-000083)

Senator: McCarthy

Type of question: Hansard pages 88-89

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Dr Charker: I will give you some figures first. Between 1 July 2016 and 31 March 2017, so over about an eight-month or nine-month period, a total of 431,150 compliance investigations were recommended by CDP providers. We all—

Senator McCARTHY: So was that across the country?

Dr Charker: Correct. That is right.

Senator McCARTHY: And what was the outcome of those investigations? So 431,150?

Dr Charker: That is correct. That is right. I do not have data on the outcome of the investigations. I can take that on notice.

- b) Senator McCARTHY: And what about penalties as a result of that?

Dr Charker: Probably the closest information I can give you at this minute would be that we ask, of course, CDP providers to report to us activity related failures, so where someone has not undertaken an activity that they are required to do. They are averaging about 10½ thousand per week this financial year.

Senator SIEWERT: Is this the data that people have been given in cross-portfolio Indigenous estimates? That table we have been given that says there are so many no-show, no-pay penalties, so many serious failures, so many serious compliance failures efforts?

Dr Charker: I do not know if the data would be exactly the same without actually seeing it. But certainly the compliance process has similarities, I imagine, to that which you have just referred to. But I do not know the particular figures of what you have received in that forum to be able to compare.

Answer:

a) – b)

The figure of 431,150 relates to reports received by the Department that were submitted by providers for investigation of a failure for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017.

The Department of Employment reports on outcomes of investigations, including the number of penalties applied. Information on outcomes can be found in the Job Seeker Compliance Quarterly Report which is published on the Department of Employment website.