

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Third Party Verification of Single Parents

Question reference number: HS 30 (SQ17-000111)

Senator: Kakoschke-Moore

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What evidence was used to support the proposed requirement that single parents receiving Parenting Parent (Single) or Newstart must have a third party verify their relationship status?
- b) How many fraudulent claims for Parenting Parent (Single) or Newstart by people claiming to be single but who are actually in a relationship have been made in each of the past 5 years?
- c) What other methods of verifying relationship status have been investigated by the Department?

Answer:

a) - c)

The Department of Social Services has legislative and policy responsibility for this measure. The Department of Human Services implements the process in line with policy direction.