

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Improving Service Delivery

**Question reference number:** HS 52 (SQ17-000133)

**Senator:** Watt

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

- a) Can you explain the discrepancy of \$100,000 in the budget papers, the papers represent a total of \$5.5 million over 5 years, yet the figures only add up to \$5.4 million over the corresponding 5 years.
- b) If the pilot is successful, will the Department consider converting these jobs into permanent ongoing employment with the department?
- c) Page 147 of Budget paper 2 sets out in forward estimates a cut to funding for the 2018-19 through to the 2020-21 estimates; does this represent a cut in the pilot program for those forward years?

#### **Answer:**

- a) The \$100,000 variance is due to rounding millions to one decimal place. Refer to page 21 of Portfolio Budget Statements 2017-18 Social Services Portfolio (Department of Human Services) which rounds the measure to three decimal places and which reflects the \$5.5 million.
- b) Decisions relating to future implementation and funding for the Pilot will be subject to Government consideration.
- c) The program is a pilot, and therefore will receive funding for the duration of the period in which the program is to be piloted, in accordance with normal practice.

The funding reduction in the forward estimates relates to forecast savings arising from more efficient information-sharing arrangements with the Australian Taxation Office. It does not relate to the Pilot.