

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Drug Testing Trial – Procurement Process

**Question reference number:** HS 7 (SQ17-000088)

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Hansard pages 94-95

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Senator SIEWERT: From your discussions with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, what does it cost per person for them to test?

Ms Campbell: I do not think we have that level of specificity yet, and I am not sure that we would be to the point where we were comparing apples with apples. I do not think we have actually got that far down the track.

Senator SIEWERT: At this stage apples and oranges might be helpful, because we have not been given any information on what this is going to cost or what it is going to cost per head. Have they provided information to you about what it costs them per person?

Dr Charker: Not to my knowledge, no.

Senator SIEWERT: They have not?

Dr Charker: I am not sure that we have asked that question.

Senator SIEWERT: Would that not be one of the obvious questions you would ask?

Dr Charker: I think it would be, but I do not think, at this point in time, we are at the stage of being able to even form a meaningful comparison. As I said, we are at an early stage just trying to identify the issues that they have had to consider in doing what they have done. We will then have to work out whether those issues apply in our own context, noting that our context is quite different.

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take on notice whether you do have that information, and, if you do, could you provide it.

Ms Campbell: We will take that on notice.

#### **Answer:**

The Department is unable to provide any information about the per person cost of drug testing in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. A request for this information should be made directly to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.