

## **Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES – 21 OCTOBER 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Human Services Portfolio**

**Topic:** Income Management – appeals against vulnerable classification

**Question reference number:** HS 19

**Senator:** SIEWERT

**Type of question:** Hansard CA page 134

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 December 2010

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

**Senator SIEWERT** - I have another question on the vulnerability category. Have there been any appeals lodged? As I understand it, the only way you can deal with the classification of vulnerable is using the normal SAP process. Is that a correct understanding?

**Ms Cartwright** - The normal process for appeals, yes.

**Senator SIEWERT** - Have any been lodged against the vulnerable classification?

**Ms Cartwright** - There are so many folders here.

**Senator SIEWERT** - I do not mean to keep jumping around. It is one I missed on my list.

**Mr Tidswell** - Is this about appeals?

**Ms Ramsey** - Appeals against—

**Senator SIEWERT** – Specifically - and I will come to the broader appeals in a minute - it is appeals against being classified as vulnerable, because that is where I am presuming that Centrelink has most of those. It may be an incorrect assumption that Centrelink has made that decision to class someone as vulnerable.

**Ms Ramsey** - That is right.

**Ms Cartwright** - We have had nine appeals under the new income management regime. I will have to take it on notice to see whether any of those nine are under the vulnerable category.

**Senator SIEWERT** - That would be appreciated. Thank you. Do you still have appeals outstanding from the old income management process?

**Ms Ramsey** - Under the Social Security (Appeals) Tribunal?

**Senator SIEWERT** - Yes.

**Ms Cartwright** - I will have to look through my folder. I could tell you tomorrow.

**Answer:**

As at 24 September 2010, no appeals under the Vulnerable measure have been lodged with Centrelink.

As at 24 September 2010, there were no outstanding appeals under the Northern Territory Emergency Response Income Management measure.