

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES – 21 OCTOBER 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: CSA investigation standards

Question reference number: HS 3

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard CA 105

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIFIELD - When the CSA conducts investigations, are you required to comply with the Australian government investigation standards? Are they relevant for the sorts of investigations you do?

Ms Godwin - They are. Our investigators are trained I think to Cert IV level. I can take that and confirm, but I understand they are trained and we do seek to comply with the Commonwealth investigation guidelines.

Answer:

All Child Support Program (CSP) Investigation Officers have completed appropriate qualifications at either the Certificate IV or diploma level as required by Australian Government Investigation Standards.

All investigations are conducted in line with the CSP Investigation and Prosecution Manual. The Investigation and Prosecution Manual was developed by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Legal Services branch in conjunction with an external legal provider and published in June 2009. The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecution also reviewed the manual.

The manual is currently being updated in some areas to maintain alignment with Australian Government Investigation Standards.