

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES – 21 OCTOBER 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Prosecutions by Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions on behalf of Centrelink

Question reference number: HS 6

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard CA page 114

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

a)

Senator FIFIELD - Can you advise how many cases have been prosecuted by Centrelink that involve debts to Centrelink of more than \$30,000 that have been referred to the DPP for prosecution?

Mr Withnell - I do not have the number over \$30,000. I gave you earlier the percentage of total debts that went through, but I do not have a hard figure.

Senator FIFIELD - Would it be possible to get that on notice?

Mr Withnell - Over \$30,000?

Senator FIFIELD - For each year from 2006-07 to 2009-10?

Mr Withnell - I will see what we can provide.

b)

Senator FIFIELD - Also, can you advise how many cases the DPP prosecuted on behalf of Centrelink from 2006-07 through to 2009-10?

Mr Withnell - I think I have provided those to you in previous estimates, but we can provide those again.

Answer:

The following table contains data relating to the number of Centrelink cases prosecuted by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions that received a conviction for the years 2006-07 to 2009-10. Data relating to specific amounts greater than \$30,000 is not available, as this would require a complex manual data extraction.

AMOUNT OF FRAUD	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Under \$5,000	451	601	523	385
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1,359	1,331	1,586	1,690
\$10,000 - less than \$25,000	907	892	1,372	1,565
\$25,000 - less than \$50,000	180	201	274	284
\$50,000 - less than \$100,000	57	56	73	73
\$100,000 - less than \$200,000	11	18	12	10
Over \$200,000	0	4	0	1
Unknown	35	43	18	12
TOTAL	3,000	3,146	3,858	4,020

*Data provided by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions