

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Medicare – Fraud

Question reference number: HS 12

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 114

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Of those who were convicted of fraud, how many were for non-medical eligibility for DSP?

Mr Withnell: Again, I would need to take that on notice to see if we can get a figure for that, because again it is not always just that one criterion. I will see how well we can break that down.

Senator SIEWERT: It would be appreciated if you could. Thank you.

Answer:

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions (CDPP) is the independent prosecution service established to prosecute alleged offences against Commonwealth law and, as such, all data relating to prosecution action should be sourced from the CDPP.

We cannot therefore respond regarding fraud convictions but can, however, provide figures relating to referrals to the CDPP for prosecution.

A case can be referred to the CDPP under more than one payment type but there were 172 cases recorded against Disability Support Pension (DSP) in 2014-15.

Of these, 171 cases were referred for reasons that did not relate to the customer's medical eligibility.