

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

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

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Hearing Services

**Question reference number:** HS 65

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Hearing services provided to eligible claimants rose by 4.3%, but costs over the year rose by 12.2%. Why has the cost risen faster than the number of services provided?

**Answer:**

The Department of Human Services electronically assesses and pays claims as lodged but does not undertake causal analysis of growth or claiming patterns. The Department of Health is responsible for the programme and determines the schedule of fees, which is indexed annually.