

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Public Tip-offs

Question reference number: HS 184

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

For the year 2014-15:

- a) How many tip-offs were made to the Centrelink fraud line in?
- b) How many tip offs led to payment reductions?
- c) What savings arose from this program?
- d) How many tip-offs resulted in no payment reductions?
- e) How many tip offs related to alleged “member of a couple” matters?
- f) How many cases investigated resulted in no change in rates of payment?
- g) How many staff were involved in this activity?
- h) What was the cost of running this program?
- i) How many tip-offs in the period led to convictions by the CDPP?

Answer:

- a) In 2014-15 the Department received 108,841 tip-offs relating to DHS programmes and other government programmes. Of these 103,803 related to social security payments. Tip-offs can be received in a number of ways from disparate sources, including online, telephone and letter. In 2014-15, 46,431 tip-offs, relating to all programmes, were received via the fraud tip-off line. We are not able to disaggregate social security tip-offs received via the fraud tip-off line.

Answers for parts (b) through to (f) are drawn from tip-offs received from all sources and through all channels.

- b) There were 1,494 tip-offs that led to social security payment reductions.
- c) Tip-offs resulted in fortnightly savings to social security payments of \$516,018 and \$14.7 million in debts raised.
- d) There were 62,240 tip-offs which had action undertaken and were completed in 2014-15 that did not result in a reduction to social security payments.

- e) There were 52,643 tip-offs received in 2014-15 that related to alleged social security “member of a couple” matters.
- f) There were 62,011 tip-offs completed in 2014-15 that did not result in a change to rate of social security payments.
- g) There were 25 staff involved in 2014-15.
- h) The cost of processing tip-offs from all sources in 2014-15 was an estimated \$2.4 million.
- i) 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.