

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.1 Family Tax Benefit

Question No: SQ15-000878

Topic: Child Support Scheme

Hansard page: Written

Senator Brown, Carol asked:

1. Is DSS leading the development of the Government response to the report of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs "From conflict to cooperation: Inquiry into the Child Support Program"?
2. In the context of this response or outside any other work, has the Department been asked to do any work on family violence including financial abuse in relation to child support?
 - a. Was this work initiated by the Department or at the request of the Minister or their office?
 - b. Have any briefings been provided to the Minister's office on this issue?
 - c. Has the Department provided input into work on family violence on this issue?
3. Under the current Act what kind of third party payments are considered to be prescribed payments?
 - a. Has the Department been asked to provide any briefings or undertake any policy work in relation to third party payments and changes to prescribed payments?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. The Department of Social Services has not been asked to do any specific work on family violence including financial abuse in relation to child support.
- 2.(a) to (c) Not applicable.
3. For the purpose of paragraph 71C(1)(b) of the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988*, the following kinds of payments are specified by regulation 5D of the *Child Support (Registration and Collection) Regulations 1988*:
 - child care costs for the child who is the subject of the enforceable maintenance liability;
 - fees charged by a school or pre-school for that child;
 - amounts payable for uniforms and books prescribed by a school or pre-school for that child;
 - fees for essential medical and dental services for that child;
 - the payee's share of amounts payable for rent or a security bond for the payee's home;
 - the payee's share of amounts payable for utilities, rates or body corporate charges for the payee's home;
 - the payee's share of repayments on a loan that financed the payee's home;
 - costs to the payee of obtaining and running a motor vehicle, including repairs and standing costs.
- 3.(a) The Department has not been asked to provide any specific briefings or undertake any specific policy work in relation to third party payments and changes to prescribed payments.