

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Consumer Leases Cap

Question reference number: 50 (HS 57)

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Is the Department going to place a cap on costs that can be charged on consumer leases?
- b) Is the Department going to introduce a protected earnings limit to restrict lease payments to no more than 10% of income?

Answer:

Both these issues are the subject of the Review of the Small Amount Credit Contract Laws (SACC) Final Report. The Government response to this report, published on 28 November 2016, indicates that the Government supports Recommendation 16 of the SACC report in-principle. The Government response also indicates that action in response to the recommendation will take account of the outcome of litigation between The Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund Pty Ltd and the Chief Executive Centrelink.