

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Centrepay Policy

Question reference number: 51 (HS 58)

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) Notwithstanding the recent appeal against the Full Court finding in the DHS v ACBF matter, does the Government have any plans to strengthen the authority of the Department to enable policy decisions to be made by the Department restricting trader access to Centrepay?
- b) Should Centrepay have a legislative framework to support it?

Answer:

- a) The decision of the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia on 11 November 2016, in the matter of *Chief Executive Centrelink v The Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund Pty Ltd and Others*, confirmed the authority to exclude goods and services from Centrepay. As this authority already exists no other changes are planned.
- b) The court's decision confirmed that the Centrepay scheme is supported by the relevant legislation.