

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Taskforce Integrity

Question reference number: 55 (HS 63)

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) Can the Department table a copy of the Taskforce Integrity Pilot for Rockdale that was the subject of media reports in November 2015?
- b) What other locations in New South Wales have been targeted as part of the Integrity Taskforce?

Answer:

- a) The Taskforce Integrity activity commenced in Rockdale, New South Wales on 27 July 2015.

In Rockdale, the Taskforce:

- initiated 1,107 formal compliance reviews;
- identified over \$2.2 million of debt to the Commonwealth;
- identified 792 cases of overpayments;
- identified 36 cases of suspected fraud for further investigation; and
- referred ten matters to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

- b) The Taskforce has also undertaken activity in Coffs Harbour, New South Wales. This operation commenced in August 2016 and is ongoing. As at 21 October 2016, the operation in Coffs Harbour had initiated 1,617 formal compliance reviews and identified 140 cases of suspected fraud for further investigation.