

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

Question: Bud 77

Topic: Co-Contribution Scheme – Increase in Numbers

Hansard Page: E10

Senator Sherry asked:

That is the existing measure. There have been two announcements: one pre budget and one in the budget. I want to go to those. The measure to change the criteria for people earning less than \$450—the SG minimum—is in the budget papers forward estimates. That is for \$45 million starting in 2004-05; then 2005-06, \$50 million; \$50 million; and \$50 million. Am I right that those figures in the forward estimates are on top of the original costings we have just been referring to?

Dr Rothman—You are correct.

Senator SHERRY—What is the estimated increase in numbers as a consequence of these changes?

Dr Rothman—That constitutes advice to the government that has not been published, and I will have to take that on notice.

Senator SHERRY—I know, but it is the base figure.

Dr Rothman—Sorry, we did the base figure, which was announced in the Senate. This is an additional number of people becoming eligible because of that. That additional number of people has not—

Senator SHERRY—Do you know the figure, Dr Rothman?

Dr Rothman—I do know the figure.

Senator SHERRY—Why can't you tell me?

Mr Tilley—Because of the reasons we have been through already. We will take it on notice. The government may choose to provide that number. We will take it on notice and respond.

Answer:

Senator Coonan provided this information to the Parliament on 23 June 2004.