

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates February 2005

Question: HS24

Outcome 1, Output 1.1 - Effective delivery of Australian Government services to eligible customers

Topic: Mobile phones

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

Senator Evans asked on 15 February 2005:

(1) Please provide a table showing the number of Centrelink staff with Government-funded mobile phones in each of the last five financial years.

(2) Please also provide a breakdown of the classifications of Centrelink staff who had Government-funded mobile phones in the last five financial years.

(3) What was the total mobile phone bill for phones issued to Centrelink officials in each of the last five financial years?

Answer:

(1) Information on the number of Centrelink staff with Government-funded mobile phones is not available, as mobile phones are purchased and allocated on an individual and/or team basis for use as business dictates.

The information in the following table is data on the number of Centrelink mobile phones for the last three financial years (and year to date). Consolidated information prior to 2001-2002 is not available as the management and purchasing of mobile phones was a decentralised function prior to 2001-2002.

Financial Year	Number of Mobile Phones
1999-00	not available
2000-01	not available
2001-02	2973
2002-03	3312
2003-04	3763

(2) A breakdown of the classification of Centrelink staff who have access to a mobile phone is not available as Centrelink mobile phones are allocated on the basis of accepted business need rather than the classification of staff member.

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(3) The total mobile phone bill for phones used by Centrelink officials in each of the last five financial years is contained in the following table.

Financial Year	Total Cost
1999-00	\$1.249 M
2000-01	\$1.221 M
2001-02	\$1.345 M
2002-03	\$1.486 M
2003-04	\$1.476M

The figures in the table have been rounded