

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Human Services Portfolio**

**Department of Human Services**

Additional Estimates February 2005

**Question: HS38**

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

**Topic: Decision to not recover \$600 overpayments in 2004**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written**

Senator Evans asked on 15 February 2005:

- (1) Can Centrelink confirm that 1,974 families were overpaid the June 2004 payment of the \$600 per child supplement.
- (2) What was the average overpayment to these families that were overpaid? What was the total amount of overpayments to families that were overpaid?
- (3) How many families that were overpaid repaid the overpayments in full?
- (4) How many families that were overpaid partially repaid the overpayments?
- (5) What is the total amount that has been recovered by Centrelink through this process?
- (6) Why did Centrelink not raise a debt against those families who were overpaid the \$600 supplement?
- (7) Why did Centrelink adopt a different approach to the \$600 payment to that which it would normally adopt if a family is overpaid FTB?
- (8) Who made the decision to not pursue those families who were overpaid the \$600 supplement? Why was this decision taken?
- (9) How many families were overpaid the second instalment of the \$600 supplement when that was made later in 2004?
- (10) What was the average overpayment to these families that were overpaid? What was the total amount of overpayments to families that were overpaid?
- (11) Did Centrelink seek to recover these overpayments, or did it adopt the same approach as for the first \$600 payment in June 2004 (and not pursue the overpayment)?

Answer:

These questions have also been asked of the Department of Family and Community Services as it has policy responsibility for this question. They will be answered by that Department through the Community Affairs Committee.