

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Human Services Portfolio**

**Department of Human Services**

Additional Estimates February 2005

**Question: HS50**

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

**Topic: Utilities Allowance**

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

**Senator Evans** asked on 15 February 2005:

- (1) What was the date of the first payment of the Utilities Allowance?
- (2) How many payments have now been made?
- (3) What has been the total amount paid?
- (4) What was the average payment made?

**Answer:**

- (1) The first payment of Utilities Allowance was made on 21 March 2005.
- (2) It is estimated that Centrelink will make approximately 1.95 million payments in the fortnightly payment period commencing 21 March 2005.
- (3) It is estimated that Centrelink will pay approximately \$70 million in the March 2005 instalment.
- (4) Payment will be \$50.00 for single customers and \$25.00 each for partnered customers.