

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 14 February 2006

Question: HS17

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Possible Increase in Demand for Centrelink Services

Hansard page or Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR SIEWERT asked:

1. Has the Department of Human Services undertaken any analysis, modelling or planning of the likely increase in demand for Centrelink services as a result of the Welfare to Work program and/or have you consulted with DEWR or any other government department or agency about this projected demand?
2. Does this analysis, modelling or planning include targets for the expected participation of new clients (single mothers, partial disabled, mature age) in the workforce, were Centrelink consulted on these targets and do you consider them realistic and achievable?
3. Are you confident that the allocation of resources and staff in the Centrelink budget are sufficient to meet this projected demand and to meet the targets set for the number of new clients placed in the workforce?

Answer:

1. Service delivery for the Welfare to Work measures is based on information and assumptions supplied by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Education, Science and Training. Centrelink has regular consultation on implementation of Welfare to Work measures with relevant policy departments.
2. Yes. Centrelink has been provided with estimated participation customer numbers for the specified initiatives. Centrelink was consulted in the development of the initiative through the costing process.
3. Yes.

This answer required 4.5 hours at a cost of \$220.00 to prepare.