

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: HS51

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink - Marriage-like relationships

Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR EVANS asked:

(1) Please update all the tables provided in response to part (1) of question on notice HS89 from May Estimates to include data for the full 2004-05 financial year.

(2) Please also provide the same information for the 2005-06 financial year (to date).

Answers:

Table 1

The following table shows the original decision maker decisions made during the relevant financial years. Decisions relating to lodgements made may not necessarily occur in the same financial year as the lodgement.

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Original Decision Maker					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside /varied)	Withdrawn /Dismissed
2002-03	1,584	1,514	1,303	207	4
2003-04	1,997	1,986	1,660	318	8
2004-05	3,156	2,842	2,178	631	33
2005-06 to 31 December 2005	2,092	1,914	1,357	519	38

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Tables 2- 5

The following tables show the Authorised Review Officer, Social Security Appeals Tribunal and Administrative Appeals Tribunal decisions made during the 2004-05 financial year, and for 2005-06 to 31 December 2005. Decisions relating to lodgements made may not necessarily occur in the same financial year as the lodgement.

Table 2

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Authorised Review Officer					
2004-05					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	434	413	219	185	9
ACT	55	60	28	30	2
QLD	411	391	201	163	27
VIC	341	339	170	152	17
WA	130	117	58	55	6
SA	118	123	67	53	3
TAS	81	71	36	32	3
NT	10	11	8	3	-

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Authorised Review Officer					
2005-06 to 31 December 2005					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	286	273	131	123	19
ACT	8	7	2	4	1
QLD	190	197	102	87	8
VIC	211	180	91	76	9
WA	89	82	38	37	7
SA	86	70	48	20	2
TAS	53	54	28	24	2
NT	10	3	3	-	-
TBA	13	17	7	9	1

TBA – On the date that the data was extracted a very small number of people in each payment population was in transit for a range of reasons. As a result, Centrelink was to be advised (TBA) by those customers of their new address.

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Table 3

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Social Security Appeals Tribunal 2004-05					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	96	79	38	35	6
ACT	17	3	1	2	-
QLD	83	85	39	30	16
VIC	66	65	29	31	5
WA	31	26	5	19	2
SA	38	41	18	16	7
TAS	17	11	3	6	2
NT	5	3	1	2	-

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Social Security Appeals Tribunal 2005-06 to 31 December 2005					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	53	68	26	27	15
ACT	1	2	1	-	-
QLD	37	32	17	10	5
VIC	25	36	8	24	3
WA	14	17	9	8	-
SA	27	22	12	6	4
TAS	14	10	5	4	1
NT	2	2	2	-	-
TBA	7	5	1	1	3

TBA – On the date that the data was extracted a very small number of people in each payment population was in transit for a range of reasons. As a result, Centrelink was to be advised (TBA) by those customers of their new address.

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Table 4

Marriage-like Relationship Cases – Administrative Appeals Tribunal					
Customer Appeals - 2004-05					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	15	16	4	7	5
ACT	1	1	-	-	1
QLD	10	19	5	7	7
VIC	8	8	4	1	3
WA	3	4	2	1	1
SA	4	7	-	4	3
TAS	6	3	-	2	1
NT	1	-	-	-	-

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Administrative Appeals Tribunal					
Customer Appeals - 2005-06 to 31 December 2005					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	15	14	-	6	8
ACT	-	-	-	-	-
QLD	3	2	1	-	1
VIC	4	3	-	-	3
WA	-	-	-	-	-
SA	4	-	-	-	-
TAS	3	1	-	-	1
NT	1	1	-	1	-
TBA		1	1		

TBA – On the date that the data was extracted a very small number of people in each payment population was in transit for a range of reasons. As a result, Centrelink was to be advised (TBA) by those customers of their new address.

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Table 5

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Administrative Appeals Tribunal - Secretary Appeals - 2004-05					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	3	5	2	3	-
ACT	1	-	-	-	-
QLD	1	4	-	1	3
VIC	4	4	2	1	1
WA	3	-	-	-	-
SA	-	-	-	-	-
TAS	-	1	-	1	-
NT	-	-	-	-	-

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Administrative Appeals Tribunal - Secretary Appeals - 2005-06 to 31 December 2005					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	4	2	1	-	1
ACT	-	1	-	1	-
QLD	-	1	-	1	-
VIC	1	1	-	-	1
WA	1	1	-	-	1
SA	-	-	-	-	-
TAS	-	-	-	-	-
NT	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 6

The following table shows the number of debts raised.

Number of Debts Raised by Dollar Amount			
Financial Year Comparison			
Financial Year	Less than \$15,000	\$15,000-\$30,000	More than \$30,000
2002-03	2,673	139	84
2003-04	3,488	177	124
2004-05	2,284	142	114
2005-06 to 31 December 2005	1,088	130	85

Table 7

The following table shows the number of marriage-like relationship cases referred to Centrelink fraud investigators, and the number of cases considered by Centrelink fraud investigators for referral to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. Data for the 2005-06 financial year to 31 December 2005 is currently not available.

Potential Marriage Like Relationship Cases		
Financial Year Comparison		
Financial Year	Centrelink Assessments	Cases referred to the DPP
2002-03	833	192
2003-04	735	176
2004-05	889	192
2005-06 to 31 December 2005	Currently not Available	Currently not Available

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Table 8

The following table shows the outcomes of cases referred to the Director of Public Prosecution for prosecution action. Prosecutions may not necessarily be finalised in the same financial year in which the case was referred to the Director of Public Prosecution. Data for the 2005-06 financial year to 31 December 2005 is currently not available.

Prosecution Outcomes – Marriage-like Relationships			
Financial Year	Prosecuted	Convicted	Dismissed
2002-03	100	98	2
2003-04	113	111	2
2004-05	105	105	0
2005-06 to 31 December 2005	Currently not Available	Currently not Available	Currently not Available

This answer required 4 hours, 45 minutes at a cost of \$196.00 to prepare.