

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: HS58

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Privacy Breaches

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR EVANS asked on 14/2/2006:

How many complaints of breaches of privacy has the Department and its agencies received and how many upon investigation have been upheld in the reporting years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005?

Answer:

The following figures relate to complaints of breaches of privacy investigated by the Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner.

Core Department

The Department of Human Services was formed on 26 October 2004. For the 2004-2005 period the Privacy Commissioner did not investigate any complaints of privacy breaches.

Child Support Agency

During 2003-2004 the Privacy Commissioner commenced investigating 4 complaints of privacy breaches. The Privacy Commissioner withdrew one, found that two were not breaches of privacy and one is outstanding. No complaints were upheld by the Privacy Commissioner.

During 2004-2005 the Privacy Commissioner commenced investigating 3 complaints of privacy breaches and upheld two of these. The Privacy Commissioner found that the remaining complaint was not a breach of privacy.

CRS Australia

For 2003-2004 CRS Australia had no complaints of privacy breaches investigated by the Privacy Commissioner.

For 2004-2005 CRS Australia had no complaints of privacy breaches investigated by the Privacy Commissioner.

Centrelink

During 2003-2004 the Privacy Commissioner commenced investigating 5 complaints of privacy breaches. Two investigations were finalised. The Privacy Commissioner upheld one and found that there had not been a breach of privacy in the other.

During 2004-2005 the Privacy Commissioner commenced investigating 2 complaints of privacy breaches. One investigation was finalised and the Privacy Commissioner upheld that complaint.

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Medicare Australia

During 2003-2004 the Privacy Commissioner did not investigate any privacy breaches.
During 2004-2005 the Privacy Commissioner commenced investigating 2 breaches and did not make a determination in relation to those investigations.

Australian Hearing

During 2003-2004 Australian Hearing had no complaints of privacy breaches investigated by the Privacy Commissioner.
During 2004-2005 Australian Hearing had no complaints of privacy breaches investigated by the Privacy Commissioner.

Health Services Australia

During 2003-2004 Health Services Australia had no complaints of privacy breaches investigated by the Privacy Commissioner.
During 2004-2005 Health Services Australia had no complaints of privacy breaches investigated by the Privacy Commissioner.

This answer required 4 hours 20 minutes at a cost of \$178 to prepare.