

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2006-2007, 13th and 16th February, 2007

Question: HS11

Agency: Centrelink

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Victorian Police – Road Blitz

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SENATOR MOORE asked on 16/02/2007:

Senator MOORE—Can we get the details of when and how the Victorian police contacted Centrelink?

Mr Whalan—Yes. I will check whether we have those details here.

Senator MOORE—Is this a one-off?

Ms Andruska—Victoria Police contacted Centrelink and invited us to be part of the operation.

Mr Whalan—When?

Ms Andruska—I do not have the date.

Mr Whalan—We will take on notice the time.

ANSWER:

In early November 2006, the Victoria Police sent an email¹ to Centrelink's Fraud Investigations Team advising their intention to conduct a large-scale vehicle intercept operation, and provided an invitation for Centrelink to express interest in participating in the operation. On 6 November 2006, Centrelink's Fraud Investigations Team in Victoria replied to this email¹.

The Victoria Police formally invited Centrelink to attend the joint operation on 14 December 2006. Centrelink formally replied via letter to the Victoria Police, Uniform Section on 27 December 2006 accepting the invitation to attend the operation that was conducted on 8 February 2007.

Centrelink being contacted to participate in a joint operation was not a one-off occurrence. Centrelink routinely participates in operations such as this.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 4 hours and 11 minutes at an estimated cost of \$181.

¹ Centrelink is unable to retrieve a copy of the received and reply email as all Centrelink email is purged after 45 days.