

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: HS13

Agency: Centrelink

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Optical Surveillance Tenders

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SENATOR Moore asked on 16/02/2007:

Senator MOORE—I do not know how Senator Evans missed that in his very detailed questions. Can we find out what the tender schedule is—the process for when it comes on?

Mr Whalan—We will take that on notice.

Senator MOORE—And perhaps you can confirm whether they are national and whether an investigation firm in a place like Charters Towers would be necessarily a national contract or whether it would be someone from Queensland—that kind of thing. I imagine with most things it would be where people have the capacity to provide the service.

Mr Whalan—We will take on notice the question on the duration of the tender and whether successful tenderers are operating nationally.

ANSWER:

The most recent request for tender for optical surveillance providers was released on 17 February 2007 on the AusTender website and in *The Australian* newspaper. The request for tender is due to close on 19 March 2007. Successful applicants will begin the new tender on 1 July 2007. The tender will be for three years with an option to extend for a further two years by one-year periods.

All optical surveillance providers can operate nationally. However, to minimise travel costs it is standard practice for the optical surveillance provider closest to the job to take on the work.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 2 hours and 11 minutes at an estimated cost of \$131.