

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: HS22

Agency: Centrelink

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: New Payment Programs

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Hansard Page F&PA 37

SENATOR MOORE asked on 16/02/2007:

Senator MOORE—You will probably have to take this next question on notice. In the period July 2006 to February 2007, were there new payment programs that were administered by Centrelink? Has anything come on line to you in that period? Has anything changed from when the annual report was provided and the figures there, which were a snapshot of the end?

Mr Whalan—Yes, there are some. I will list some now and then we can add any that I miss. The LPG grants, I believe, have come on during that period, and some drought related payments, firstly, in terms of an extension of a number of EC declared areas and, secondly, some payments for small business in EC declared areas. There would have been some other announcements that I have not covered.

Senator MOORE—Can you take that on notice, Mr Whalan.

Mr Whalan—Yes.

ANSWER:

There have been three new payment programs that have been implemented between July 2006 and February 2007. They are:

1. Tobacco Grower Adjustment Assistance (payments to customers commencing March 2007).
2. Provision of Professional Advice and Planning Grants for Farm Businesses.
3. Energy Initiatives - Liquified Petroleum Gas Vehicle Purchase and Conversion Rebate.

There have been many other Budget measures implemented in that timeframe that are strictly changes to existing programs. These programs and others are listed in the summary of measures table in the Department of Human Services' 2006-07 Portfolio Budget Statements (pages 76-85) and the 2006-07 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements (pages 68-70).

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