

Question: HS34

Agency: Centrelink

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink/Medicare Trial

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Hansard Page F&PA 55

SENATOR WONG asked on 16/02/2007:

Senator WONG—Perhaps you could take that on notice. I had some questions regarding the trial sharing of offices between Medicare and Centrelink.

Mr Whalan—To clarify this, Senator, I think there are four Centrelink offices and four Medicare offices in which we are trialling doing a broader range of work. Is that the trial you are referring to?

Senator WONG—Yes.

Ms Scott—Would you like details of that?

Senator WONG—Yes. Can you tell me the cost of that and where it is occurring?

Ms Scott—The Centrelink services for seniors and carers have been rolled out into the following Medicare offices: Box Hill, Victoria, 2 October; Hillarys, Western Australia, 6 October; Port Macquarie, New South Wales, 11 October; Marion, South Australia, 6 November. Medicare non-cash services have been rolled out into Centrelink in the following locations: Sutherland, New South Wales, 4 October; Earlville, Queensland, 9 October; Broome, Western Australia, 23 October; Launceston, Tasmania, 13 October. I do not have any costs figures with me, but I do have take-up if that is of any interest to you.

Senator WONG—Can you get costs on notice?

Ms Scott—I will take it on notice.

Senator WONG—If there are any savings that you have identified or projected in terms of your net costings, can you provide those on notice?

ANSWER:

Costs to Implement Trial – Centrelink 2006-07 Expenditure

Centrelink has allocated \$636,000 (\$585,000 of operating expenditure and \$51,000 of capital expenditure) for the trial.

No savings were identified or projected in terms of the costing. The trial is designed to facilitate customer access to Australian Government services.

Costs to Implement Trial for Medicare Australia can be found at Hansard Page F&PA 56.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 1 hour and 56 minutes at an estimated cost of \$119.