

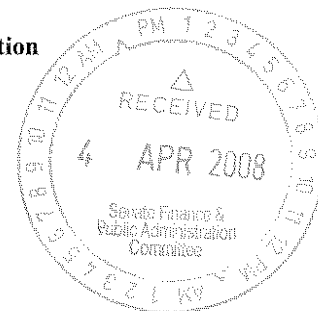
**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Human Services Portfolio**

**Department of Human Services**

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



**Question: HS28a**

**Outcome 1, Output 1**

**Topic: Department of Human Services – Abolition of Parliamentary Liaison Officer Program**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written**

**SENATOR BOYCE asked on 22/02/2008:**

The Minister for Human Services announced, in a Media Release titled 'Election commitment delivered', that the abolition of the PLO (sic) program would save \$1.6 million over 4 years. The election commitment (on the ALP website) is titled 'Cleaning Up Government' estimates savings of \$52.5 m over 4 years by abolishing LLOs, and states the abolition of the program will save \$52.5 million over 4 years. Please explain the discrepancy of \$50.9 million?

**Answer:**

The \$52.2 million in savings over four years was an estimate identified as part of the election commitments and was based on publicly available information which suggested that the program was delivered by 226 full-time staff.

The Department of Human Services has since clarified that the LLO role was undertaken by staff in addition to their regular duties and therefore, the savings to be achieved were \$1.6 million over four and a half years and were related to coordination activities for the program.