

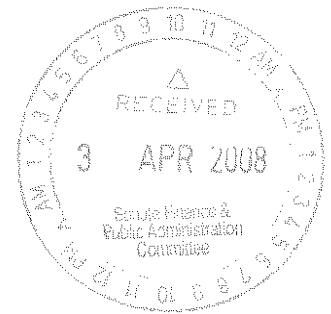
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Question: HS43

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Efficiency Dividend

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR COONAN asked on 22/02/2008:

Treasury has advised that in order to fight inflation, there first needs to be a slowing of Australia's economic growth rate – which means an expected rise in unemployment. If approximately 2000 jobs are cut from Centrelink, will Centrelink still be able to operate effectively even if the unemployment rate goes up as expected?

Answer:

Under the Centrelink funding model, Centrelink is funded for movements in customer numbers. Under this model, if unemployment numbers increase, Centrelink would be funded accordingly.