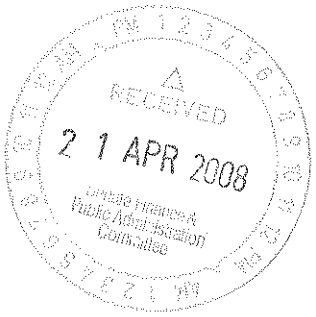
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Question: HS70

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink - Text Mining

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR CONNAN asked on 22/02/2008:

Why was the January to March 2008 tender for Data Mining Software for test mining and trend analysis for fraud and compliance, apparently withdrawn?

Answer:

Consideration was given to the possibilities of using text mining software in 2007/08. Purchase of appropriate text mining software would have required an ongoing and expensive yearly payment for licences and this expense was not considered an effective use of public monies at that stage.

The purchase of text mining software is still under active consideration for use as a tool in supporting Centrelink's prevention and detection strategies to reduce fraud and non-compliance.