

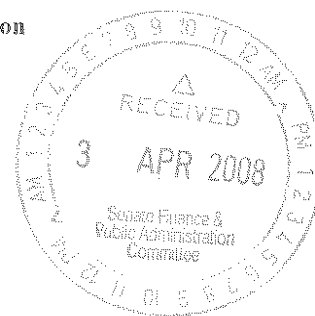
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Question: HS89

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Fraud & Compliance

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR COONAN asked on 22/02/2008:

Please provide detail of steps taken to ensure the correctness of social security payments made to recipients who reside overseas?

Answer:

Centrelink conducts a number of activities to ensure the correctness of payment to recipients who reside abroad, including:

- conducting over 10,000 reviews/investigations over four years as part of the 'Fraud and Compliance - address risks in payments to income support recipients who reside abroad' Budget measure that commenced 1 October 2006;
- electronic data exchange with Social Security Agreement partners to enable the application of foreign pension rate increases. Commercially available overseas death data is utilised to ensure payments are not made to deceased customers. These actions are undertaken as part of the 'Detection and Prevention of incorrect payments arising from overseas income' measure that was announced as part of the 2005-06 Federal Budget and the United Kingdom Budget measure; and
- Pensioner Entitlement Reviews for selected overseas customers.