

**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: HS99**

**Outcome 1, Output 1.1**

**Topic: Centrelink – Identity Related Fraud**

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

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

Please provide the current resources and capacities within Centrelink to discover and investigate identity related fraud.

**Answer:**

Centrelink's identity fraud program was specifically funded by a continuation of the 2003-04 Budget measure, *Identify fraud – improving and increasing the number of investigations*, and has been provided with \$6.3 million in funding for the 2007-08 financial year. Identity fraud investigations are conducted as part of Centrelink's ongoing fraud control program and are undertaken by Fraud Investigation Team members. Prior to the Budget measure, base funding for identity fraud was approximately \$867,000 per annum, which provided approximately 526 investigations and 50 prosecutions per annum. For the financial year 2006-07, Centrelink completed 20,236 identity fraud reviews. This resulted in the detection of 2,010 identity fraud debts.

Further to this Centrelink identifies identity fraud through Centrelink's other Budget measures and fraud and compliance programs in areas such as data matching and cash economy field operations.