

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES – 9 FEBRUARY 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Australian Disability Enterprises

Question reference number: HS 28(a)

Senator: FIFIELD

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 111, 9 February 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIFIELD - That is good news. Does the nature of Centrelink's work enable it to contract out any work to Australian Disability Enterprises?

Ms Hogg - Yes. We have a number of opportunities where that happens.

Senator FIFIELD - Can you take me through the sorts of activities that are contracted out to ADE?

Senator FIFIELD - If you could take on notice to provide those activities which Centrelink does contract out to ADE, that would be helpful.

Answer:

Centrelink's financial systems are not currently designed to identify purchases made from Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs).

As a result, the only way of developing a comprehensive list of Centrelink's business interactions with ADEs would be a manual match of procurement records with the list of more than 600 ADEs. The scale and manual nature of a matching exercise, and the possibility that some ADEs might have tendered for business under different business names, could also make the results unreliable and potentially misleading.

However, Centrelink has identified that it does business with prominent ADEs in some areas, most notably Vision Australia, a substantial supplier of equipment for low vision, Braille translations and conversion of documents to audio format and House With No Steps, a supplier of respite services. Vision Australia and Westcare Industries (WA) recently qualified for inclusion on the Human Services Multi Use List of suppliers for Printing and Production Services (Design, Production and Distribution).