

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

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

**Human Services Portfolio**

**Topic:** Fraud Investigation

**Question reference number:** HS29(b)

**Senator:** FIFIELD

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA page 112, 9 February 2010

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Mr Withnell** – In terms of the number of investigations we did in 2008-09, we did 26,084 investigations.

**Senator FIFIELD** – Would you also be able to give us that data for the previous two years?

**Answer:**

Fraud cases investigated in each year were:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>
<b>Number of fraud cases</b>	42,000	35,885	26,084

The reduction in the number of investigations is attributable to Centrelink's Intelligence Framework and the full implementation of intelligence-led fraud investigations. Centrelink's Intelligence Framework has enabled appropriate and effective targeting and treatment of the risks posed by fraudulent activity. The filtering and prioritisation of cases allows for lower priority cases to be referred for more appropriate treatment such as a compliance review. This ensures that while the number of investigations has reduced, Centrelink's fraud and compliance effort has not; rather, it has just aligned the most appropriate intervention to risk.