

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 9 FEBRUARY 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Compliance funding and staff numbers

Question reference number: HS34

Senator: FIFIELD

Type of question: Hansard F&PA pages 115, 9 February 2010

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIFIELD – Ms Briggs, I was asking Centrelink before and I will ask Medicare as well: does Medicare have a particular allocation for fraud prevention and fraud detection?

Mr Bridge – Yes, we do. We have a fairly extensive compliance program that looks quite broadly at general compliance, including criminal fraud issues

Senator FIFIELD – Is there a dollar figure that covers that?

Mr Bridge – I do not have the exact figure but I can tell that it is in the order of about 450 staff across the board looking at both our audit programs, our investigation, and our health and education services around this territory. That is in the order of about \$50 million annually, but I do not have the precise figures.

Senator FIFIELD – Could you provide that figure and the number of staff for 2009, 2008 and 2007?

Mr Bridge – Yes, certainly.

Answer:

Staffing and budget figures for Medicare Australia's compliance program for the 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Budget	FTE at 30 June
2007-2008	\$30.679m	297
2008-2009 (1)	\$39.567m	422
2009-2010 (2)	\$41.373m	428

Notes:

(1) Increase of 110 FTE directly attributable to the Increased Medicare Compliance Audits Budget Measure.

(2) FTE figure for 2009/2010 is as at 31 January 2010.