

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 26 May 2005

Question: HS14

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Core Department – Drop in number of Comprehensive Work Capacity Assessments

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: F&PA 30 26/5/05

SENATOR EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Human Services, upon notice, on 26 May 2005, to explain the drop in the number of comprehensive work capacity assessments completed in 2008-09 as opposed to the previous years.

Number of assessments by financial year provided to the Financial and Public Administration Committee on 26 May 2005:

2006-07	348,000
2007-08	370,000
2008-09	348,000
Total 2006-09	1,066,000

Answer:

There are a number of groups who will be eligible from July 2006 for a comprehensive work capacity assessment. Both new claimants for payment may be eligible for assessment, as well as existing income support recipients. For example, existing Parenting Payment Single and Partnered recipients whose youngest child is 6 or more will, from July 2007, have part-time participation requirements and mutual obligations. The inclusion of existing payment recipients is expected to lead to a higher demand for assessments in the first two years of the measure. Following the initial two years, assessment numbers are expected to stabilise.