

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: HS32

Outcome #, Output #

Topic: Australian Hearing – Loading for remote locations

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: F&PA 91 26/5/05

SENATOR CROSSIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Human Services, upon notice, on 26 May 2005:

Is it right that there is a loading applied for remote locations? What is that loading currently?

Answer:

The model used to attribute revenue to Centres for all work undertaken in the Community Service Obligation area is based as closely as possible to the actual cost of delivering the service.

For services delivered under the Australian Hearing Specialist Program for Indigenous Australians, the rate paid is 59% higher than for services delivered in other areas of the program. The higher rate is to recognise the additional costs associated with all travel, administrative time in arranging permits and negotiating visits and reporting requirements.

Where CSO services are delivered at a remote site that is not based at an Indigenous Community a 20% loading is applied, this includes travel costs.