

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: HS36

Outcome 1, Output Group 1.1

Topic: Centrelink - Sick/unplanned leave

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR MASON asked on 26 May 2005:

1) For each of the last four financial or calendar years for which this information is available:

- a) what was the average number of sick leave days taken per full-time equivalent employee;
- b) what was the average number of days of unscheduled absence (encompassing all types of leave) taken per full-time equivalent employee.

2) Does the agency collect, collate and analyse data about unscheduled absence and/or sick leave, for example, which days of the week that employees are away, reasons for absence, dates of absence, employee's age, gender, length of service and work unit location?

3) Does the agency record the number and/or percentage of working days lost due to unscheduled absence and/or sick leave in the Annual Report?

4) Does the agency record the cost of unscheduled absence and/or sick leave in annual financial statements?

Answer:

1) (a) For each of the last four financial years the average number of sick leave days taken per full-time equivalent employee in Centrelink were:

Financial Year	Sick Leave
2000-01	10.13
2001-02	10.46
2002-03	10.54
2003-04	11.52

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1) (b) For each of the last four financial years the average number of days of unscheduled absence (encompassing all types of leave) taken per full-time equivalent employee in Centrelink were:

Financial Year	Unscheduled Absence
2000-01	14.45
2001-02	15.48
2002-03	15.00
2003-04	15.78

2) Yes.

3) No.

4) No. Absence costs are included as part of total employee costs but are not disaggregated.