

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Finance and Public Administration Portfolio**

**Department of Human Services and agencies**

Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 25 May 2006

**Question: HS24**

**Outcome 1, Output 1.1**

**Topic: Welfare to Work (Financial Case Management)**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 24**

**SENATOR Penny Wong** asked on 25/5/2006:

Senator WONG—I will have to go to the supermarket. Okay, so in the ACT you would have to make sure people cannot buy grog. But you do not know what you are doing with cigarettes. Is that right?

Mr Whalan—I would need to confirm.

Senator WONG—Will you need to check with DEWR or are you going to put it in the guidelines that you co-author?

Mr Divall—We would need to check with DEWR.

**Answer:**

The Financial Case Management guidelines allow Centrelink to make payments for reasonable costs of living, including:

- costs of food and other household provisions (eg laundry detergent, personal hygiene and pharmaceutical products etc), rent, mortgages, medical expenses, rates, gas, electricity, telephone, public transport, and other reasonable costs;
- cost of repairs or replacement of essential whitegoods (eg washing machine, dryer, refrigerator, freezer, cooking appliances);
- school expenses for a dependent child;
- funeral expenses;
- essential expenses arising from birth or adoption of a child;
- expenditure to replace essential household goods lost through theft or natural disaster;
- cost of essential repairs to the job seeker's car or home;
- premiums for vehicle or home insurance;
- expenses for vehicle registration; and
- other unavoidable and reasonable costs.