

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Human Services Portfolio**

**Department of Human Services/Agency**

**Budget Estimates 2007-08 - May 2007**

**Question: HS 36**

**Outcome 1 Output 1.1**

**Topic: Centrelink – Social Security Fraud Convictions**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: F&PA 122**

**SENATOR Lundy asked on 24/05/2007:**

**Senator LUNDY** – Can you provide the figures on the number of people convicted for social security fraud in 2005-06 and 2006-07?

**Mr Whalan** – In 2005-06 there were 2,822 convictions with associated savings of \$34.3 million. For 2006-07 we have not yet got those figures. We are still on our way through the year.

**Senator LUNDY** – Have you got any year-to-date figures?

**Mr Whalan** – All I have is a figure of the referrals to the Director of Public Prosecutions. As at the end of April, there had been 3,383 referrals. But I do not have the number of convictions.

**Senator LUNDY** – If you could take that on notice to provide the year-to-date figures, that would be helpful.

**Answer:**

For the financial year 2006-07 to 30 April 2007, there have been 2,370 people convicted of Social Security fraud. The associated savings figure for the 2006-07 financial year will not be available until after 30 June 2007.