

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Budget Estimates 2007-08 - May 2007

Question: HS13

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services – IT Costs of Access Card

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Hansard Page F&PA 77-8

SENATOR STOTT DESPOJA asked on 24/05/2007:

Senator STOTT DESPOJA—That is right—I have it [HS 7] on computer but not on hard copy—comparable mass storage of biometric photographs. I am just a bit concerned about the response given...

Now, I just wonder whether you are still comfortable with that answer you provided to me. I understand that there is a distinction between smartcard technology and the biometric facial recognition. But that is what I wanted, that is what I was interested in, and I am not comfortable that that is reflected in the answer from the department.

Ms Hartland—We will have to go back and seek some specific advice on those.

Answer:

The Department of Human Services' response in HS7 (February 2007 Additional Estimates) incorrectly included Taiwan in the list of facial biometric data matching systems. This was in fact a successful smart card implementation project. The remaining examples are correct.