

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES – 29 MAY 2008

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Human Services Portfolio
Outcome/Output Group: All
Topic: Freedom of Information (FOI) requests



Senator: Coonan
Question reference number: HS50a–d
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008

Question:

- HS50a:** Has the department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- HS50b:** How many FOI requests has the department received?
- HS50c:** How many FOI requests have been granted or denied?
- HS50d:** How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

HS50a: Human Services Portfolio agencies have sought legal advice during 2007-08 on specific requests when appropriate.

All agencies have access to the Freedom of Information Guidelines as prepared by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

HS50b-c: The following table details FOI requests received, granted and refused for 2007-08 (up to 31 May 08). Note that, of those requests granted or refused, some will have been received prior to 2007-08. Note also that FOI requests that were withdrawn or transferred are not included in this response.

Agency	No of Requests received	Granted In Full	Granted In Part	Refused
Core Department	7	0	0	1
CRS Australia	9	4	4	0
Child Support Agency	307	45	223	17
Centrelink	8,999	7,049	1,377	393
Medicare Australia	6	0	0	3
Australian Hearing	1	0	1	0

HS50d: No conclusive certificates have been issued this financial year (to 31 May 2008) for documents held by the Core Department, Centrelink, Medicare Australia, the Child Support Agency, CRS Australia or Australian Hearing.

Number of pages: 2

