# Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES – 28 MAY 2009

## Human Services Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Human Services
**Outcome/Output Group:** Outcome 1, Output 1
**Topic:** Staff Numbers

**Senator:** Scullion
**Question Reference Number:** HS1
**Type of Question:** Hansard F&PA 57, 28 May 2009
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer**: 10 July 2009

**Question:**

**HS1:**   On breakdown of staffing numbers:

**Senator Ludwig**—If we took what we had got to and tried to break it down as to where they are now, that might be able to provide a point in time. …

… Bear in mind that we will put some caveats round those that are whole of portfolio but try at least to nominate those that are in that category. That might provide at least the picture for now. Would that be what you are seeking to achieve?

**Senator SCULLION**—That would appear to be the best I am able to achieve, given the changes in the way that we allocate things. As I said, from my perspective, the principle is that there will be people who are the externals—the people who run the department, if you like; its machinery—but, whilst there will be some fluctuations in that machinery, the sort of fluctuations we are looking at here are really a function of demand. I know some machinery changes will have to take place. If you employ 410 fewer people it will be 410 fewer people to pay, and there will be some impact on those things. But I think it would be useful, if you have had a substantive change, to have some measurements and benchmarks that are not a single number. I think it would be useful to be able to explore what those numbers are and what they mean.

**Ms Williams**—We cannot do that for you right now. We could see what we could come back with.

**Answer:**

**HS1:**   As shown on page 58 of Hansard, the Chief Financial Officer provided some details of movements in estimated staffing numbers for components of the Department.  However, it is not possible to provide directly comparable figures across the years.  The Department has been undergoing restructuring to bring functions across the Department into a more unified arrangement and consequently comparisons for these particular groups are constantly changing.

As you may be aware, the Child Support Program and CRS Australia have operated in the past as if they were separate agencies with their own corporate support functions such as information technology, personnel, finance, and legal.  These enabling functions are being brought together into single groups.  This process is well underway in respect of the Child Support Program.

The following table provides staffing levels ('headcount') as at 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009):

| Department of Human Services | Number of Staff 30 June 2008 | Number of Staff 30 June 2009 |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| Central Department | 163 | 4,511[1] |
| Child Support Program | 4,216 | - |
| CRS Australia | 2,006 | 2,132 |
| | | |
| **Total Department** | **6,385** | **6,643** |

---

[1]  Total for Central Department and Child Support Program as at 30 June 2009.