

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

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Centrelink

Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Data Exchange with the United Kingdom

Senator: Bernardi

Question reference number: HS10

Type of question: Hansard F&PA 83-84, 28 May 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

Question:

HS10: Senator BERNARDI—Mr Pratt, I will address my question to you. The quote I have in front of me says: THOUSANDS of Australian pensioners who also get a British pension will be forced to repay money to Centrelink after an investigation found they were getting more money than they were entitled to.

And then I have information that 175,000 Australian pensioners also get a British pension. Using UK data, it was found that 14,000 pensioners were being overpaid because they had underdeclared their income from the UK. Has the department managed to reclaim money from those 14,000 pensioners?

Mr Pratt—I am advised that we will have to take that on notice, Senator, but we may be able to answer you over the course of the session.

Answer:

HS10: Reviews are ongoing. As at 15 June 2009, 3,800 debts have been raised and recovery action commenced.

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