

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 May 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Parliamentary Library Request for information

Question reference number: HS18

Senator: RYAN

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 102, 27 May 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator RYAN Could you take it on notice to get the dates of those contacts—the original request from the Parliamentary Library; the request from Centrelink to FaHCSIA; and the answer from FaHCSIA, which was a conditional yes, which you could not assist with because the Parliamentary Library would not provide you with it. Did you or Centrelink at any time have contact from the minister's office? I appreciate that you did not initiate that. Sorry, I would like the date of the contact from the minister's office about the charging issue.

Ms Hogg - We can take that on notice.

Answer:

1. The original request for data from the Parliamentary Library was received on 9 April 2010.
2. Centrelink's Information Management Team commenced its usual process and emailed the Parliamentary Library contact officer on 12 April 2010 to:
 - (a) advise that the data was available except for children under one year old;
 - (b) inform of the cost of providing the data; and
 - (c) provide a pro forma to be completed if the Parliamentary Library wished to proceed with the request.
3. On 22 April 2010 the Parliamentary Library contact officer contacted the Centrelink Departmental Liaison Officer in Minister Bowen's office to query the cost for providing the data. Following this representation, Centrelink determined the cost for the data had been provided in error and that there should be no cost. The Departmental Liaison Officer emailed the Parliamentary Library contact officer on the same day to advise of the error. Therefore, no charge was to apply if the data was released.
4. The Parliamentary Library contact officer completed the Centrelink Data Request pro forma and provided it to Centrelink on 27 April 2010.

5. On 5 May 2010, Centrelink sought the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs' approval for release of the data. That Department advised that the data had not been approved for release.
6. As the Departmental Liaison Officer (DLO) had previously been contacted by the Parliamentary Library officer about the request, the DLO was asked to advise the Parliamentary Library of the outcome. A staff member of the Minister's Office advised the Parliamentary Library contact officer of the outcome on 5 May 2010.