

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 MAY 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Freedom of Information

Question reference number: HS43

Senator: BARNETT

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b) How many FOI requests has the Department received?
- c) How many have been granted or denied?
- d) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

- a) No advice has been received from the Government or any other sources regarding how to respond to FOI requests. The Human Services portfolio relies on the *Freedom of Information Act* 1982 and existing Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet FOI guidelines when responding to FOI requests.
- b)
 - Centrelink received 4,242 FOI requests in the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010;
 - The Department of Human Services (including the Child Support Agency) received 464 FOI requests in the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010; and
 - Medicare Australia received six FOI requests in the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010.
- c)
 - Centrelink granted 2,627 applications in full, 1,230 were partially granted and 333 applications were denied in the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010;
 - The Department of Human Services (including the Child Support Agency) granted 119 applications in full, 191 were partially granted and 26 applications were denied in the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010; and
 - Medicare Australia granted five applications in full with one application withdrawn in the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010.
- d) No conclusive certificates have been issued by the Human Services portfolio in relation to FOI requests in the period 1 July 2009 to 31 May 2010.