

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Estimates 2004-2005

Question: HS2

Topic: Staffing and responsibilities of Department of Human Services

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Senator Evans asked

1. Please provide the number of staff by classification and level that are or will be employed by the Department of Human Services?
2. Please provide a diagram of the outputs/outcomes for DHS?
3. What budget has been provided to DHS for the remainder of this financial year and what is the projected budget for the forward estimates period?
4. Has the Government formally responded to the Uhrig Report into public sector governance? If so, can a copy of the response be provided? If not, why not?
5. Please explain how the creation of the DHS is consistent with the recommendations of the Uhrig Report?
6. Please list all the functions and responsibilities of the DHS?
7. Please list all the functions and or responsibilities performed by Centrelink as at 9 October 2004 have been or will be transferred to DHS?
8. Please list all the functions and or responsibilities performed by the Health Insurance Commission as at 9 October have been transferred to DHS?
9. Please list all the functions and or responsibilities performed by the Child Support Agency as at 9 October have been transferred to DHS?
10. Please list all the functions and or responsibilities performed by the Health Services Australia as at 9 October have been transferred to DHS?
11. Please list all the functions and or responsibilities performed by the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services Australia as at 9 October have been transferred to DHS?
12. Where will DHS physically be located? Will there be offices in all states and territories?
13. What are the lines of responsibility for all agencies within DHS including Ministerial lines of responsibility?

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Answer:

Question 1.

Technically the Department of Human Services comprises the core department, Child Support Agency and CRS Australia. Except in relation to question 2, the following responses are provided in relation to the core department only, which was established on 26 October 2004.

Actual staff as at 10 January 2005 (includes seconded and temporary staff) :

Classification	Level	No. of staff
Secretary		1
Deputy Secretary		
First Assistant Secretary		2
Assistant Secretary		5
Executive Officer	Level 2	17
	Level 1	12
APS	Level 6	6
	Level 5	2
Total		45

Proposed Organisational Structure for 05/06:

Classification	Level	No. of staff
Secretary		1
Deputy Secretary		1
First Assistant Secretary		3
Assistant Secretary		4
Executive Officer	Level 2	17
	Level 1	12
APS	Level 6	8
	Level 5	4
	Level 4	4
Total		54

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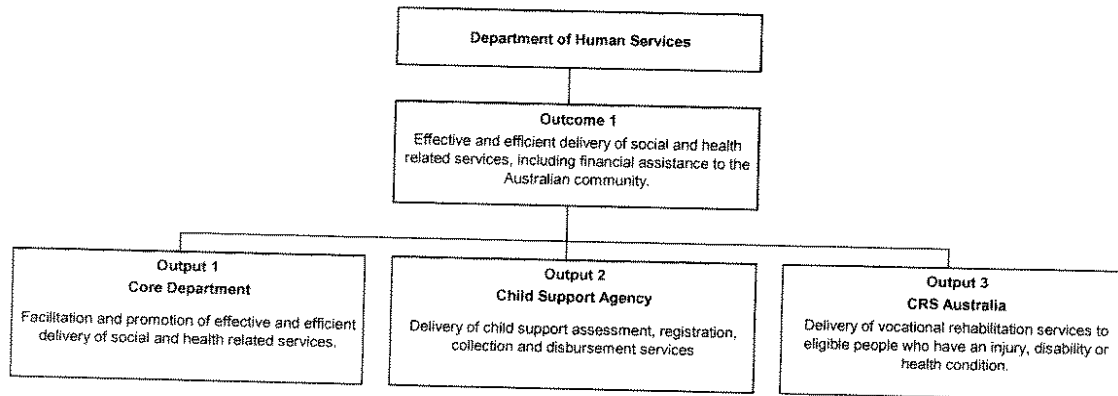
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Answer
Question 2.



Answer
Question 3.

The Department of Human Services technically comprises the core department, the Child Support Agency and CRS Australia. The budget and source of funding for the Child Support Agency and for CRS Australia remains unchanged by the creation of the Department.

The funding for the core department will be provided by transfers of appropriation under section 32 of the Financial Management and Accountability Act, from the Departments that use the services of the Human Services agencies. The details of these transfers are being negotiated by the Department of Finance and Administration and have not yet been finalised.

As at 25 January 2005, interim resource transfers totalling \$3.765 million for 2004-05 and \$3.900 million for 2005-06 and future financial years, have been agreed and transferred.

Answer
Question 4 and Question 5.

The Department of Finance and Administration has advised that the Australian Government response to the Uhrig Report was announced on 12 August 2004 by the Minister for Finance and Administration, Senator the Hon Nick Minchin. The Uhrig Report and the Government response were also tabled in the Parliament on 12 August 2004. Copies have been provided to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee.

Consistent with the Prime Minister's statement on 22 October 2004 the new Department of Human Services will ensure that the development and delivery of government services is placed under strong ministerial control with clear lines of responsibility through the Secretary of Human Services. This is in keeping with the Uhrig recommendations.

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Answer

Question 6.

The Administrative Arrangements Order of 16 December 2004 provides the following:

Matters dealt with by the Department

Development, delivery and co-ordination of government services. Monitoring and management of service delivery and purchaser/provider relationships involving Centrelink, the Health Insurance Commission, the Child Support Agency, Australian Hearing, Health Services Australia and CRS Australia

Legislation administered by the Minister

Australian Hearing Services Act 1991, except to the extent administered by the Minister for Health and Ageing

Child Support (Assessment) Act 1989, insofar as it relates to the exercise of the powers and functions conferred on the Registrar under the Act

Child Support (Registration and Collection) Act 1988, insofar as it relates to the appointment of the Registrar and the exercise of the powers and functions conferred on the Registrar under the Act

Commonwealth Services Delivery Agency Act 1997

Health Insurance Commission Act 1973

Answer

Questions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

No functions have as yet been transferred from these agencies to the Department of Human Services

Answer

Question 12.

From late March early April 2005, DHS will be physically located at Level 2, Burns Centre, 28 National Circuit, Forrest, ACT 2603. There will be no offices in the States or Territories.

Answer

Question 13.

The CRS and the CSA are responsible to the Minister through the Secretary of the Department. Centrelink, the HIC, Australian Hearing and Health Services Australia are responsible to the Minister through their respective Boards, however the Minister has requested that matters referred to him from these agencies should be submitted through the Secretary of the Department.