

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Budget Estimates 1 November 2005

Question: HS36

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink - Marriage-like relationships

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

(1) Please update all the tables provided in response to part (1) of question on notice HS89 from May Estimates to include data for the full 2004-05 financial year.

(2) Please also provide the same information for the 2005-06 financial year (to date).

Answers:

Table 1

The following table shows the original decision maker decisions made during the relevant financial years. Decisions relating to lodgements made may not necessarily occur in the same financial year as the lodgement.

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Original Decision Maker					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
2002-03	1,584	1,514	1,303	207	4
2003-04	1,997	1,986	1,660	318	8
2004-05	3,156	2,842	2178	631	33
1 July 2005 to 31 October 2005	1361	1262	914	329	19

Tables 2- 5

The following tables show the Authorised Review Officer, Social Security Appeals Tribunal and Administrative Appeals Tribunal decisions made during the 2004-05 financial year, and from 2005-06 to 31 October 2005. Decisions relating to lodgements made may not necessarily occur in the same financial year as the lodgement.

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Table 2

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Authorised Review Officer					
2004-05					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	434	413	219	185	9
ACT	55	60	28	30	2
QLD	411	391	201	163	27
VIC	341	339	170	152	17
WA	130	117	58	55	6
SA	118	123	67	53	3
TAS	81	71	36	32	3
NT	10	11	8	3	-

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Authorised Review Officer					
2005-06 to 31 October 2005					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	217	204	110	83	11
ACT	7	4	1	2	1
QLD	112	121	58	57	4
VIC	153	115	59	52	4
WA	57	56	25	24	7
SA	49	46	27	16	2
TAS	35	38	19	18	1
NT	6	2	2	-	-
Unknown	7	9	5	3	1

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Table 3

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Social Security Appeals Tribunal					
2004-05					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	96	79	38	35	6
ACT	17	3	1	2	-
QLD	83	85	39	30	16
VIC	66	65	29	31	5
WA	31	26	5	19	2
SA	38	41	18	16	7
TAS	17	11	3	6	2
NT	5	3	1	2	-

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Social Security Appeals Tribunal					
2005-06 to 31 October 2005					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	40	50	13	23	14
ACT	-	-	-	-	-
QLD	25	18	10	5	3
VIC	17	26	3	21	2
WA	8	12	6	6	-
SA	13	16	8	2	6
TAS	7	8	4	3	1
NT	1	2	2	-	-
Unknown	4	2	1	-	1

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Table 4

Marriage-like Relationship Cases - Administrative Appeals Tribunal Customer Appeals					
2004-05					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	15	16	4	7	5
ACT	1	1	-	-	1
QLD	10	19	5	7	7
VIC	8	8	4	1	3
WA	3	4	2	1	1
SA	4	7	-	4	3
TAS	6	3	-	2	1
NT	1	-	-	-	-

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Administrative Appeals Tribunal Customer Appeals					
2005-06 to 31 October 2005					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	6	1	-	1	-
ACT	-	-	-	-	-
QLD	1	2	1	-	1
VIC	1	2	-	-	2
WA	-	-	-	-	-
SA	1	-	-	-	-
TAS	3	-	-	-	-
NT	1	-	-	-	-

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Table 5

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Administrative Appeals Tribunal					
Secretary Appeals					
2004-05					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	3	5	2	3	-
ACT	1	-	-	-	-
QLD	1	4	-	1	3
VIC	4	4	2	1	1
WA	3	-	-	-	-
SA	-	-	-	-	-
TAS	-	1	-	1	-
NT	-	-	-	-	-

Marriage - like Relationship Cases - Administrative Appeals Tribunal					
Secretary Appeals					
2005-06 to 31 October 2005					
	Lodgements	Decisions	Affirmed	Changed (Set aside / varied)	Withdrawn / Dismissed
NSW	3	-	1	-	-
ACT	-	-	-	-	-
QLD	-	-	-	1	-
VIC	1	-	-	-	1
WA	1	-	-	-	1
SA	-	-	-	-	-
TAS	-	-	-	-	-
NT	-	-	-	-	-

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Table 6

The following table shows the number of debts raised.

Number of Debts Raised by Dollar Amount Financial Year Comparison			
Financial Year	Less than \$15,000	\$15,000- \$30,000	More than \$30,000
2002-03	2,673	139	84
2003-04	3,488	177	124
2004-05	2,284	142	114
2005-06 to 31 October 2005	747	95	60

Table 7

The following table shows the number of marriage-like relationship cases referred to Centrelink fraud investigators, and the number of cases considered by Centrelink fraud investigators for referral to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. Data for the 2005-06 financial year to date is currently not available.

Potential Marriage Like Relationship Cases Financial Year Comparison		
Financial Year	Centrelink Assessments	Cases referred to the DPP
2002-03	833	192
2003-04	735	176
2004-05	889	192
2005-06 to 31 October 2005	Currently not Available	Currently not Available

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Table 8

The following table shows the outcomes of cases referred to the Director of Public Prosecution for prosecution action. Prosecutions may not necessarily be finalised in the same financial year in which the case was referred to the Director of Public Prosecution. Data for the 2005-06 financial year to date is currently not available.

Prosecution Outcomes – Marriage-like Relationships			
Financial Year	Prosecuted	Convicted	Dismissed
2002-03	100	98	2
2003-04	113	111	2
2004-05	105	105	0
2005-06 to 31 October 2005	Currently not Available	Currently not Available	Currently not Available