

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Department of Human Services and Agencies**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 31 October, 2006

**Question: HS46**

**Outcome 1, Output 1.1**

**Topic: Centrelink - Private Investigators**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written**

**SENATOR WONG** asked on 31/10/2006:

How much has been spent by Centrelink on private investigators in the 2005-06 financial year?

How many people were subject to optical surveillance in the last two financial years? Of these numbers, how many cases led to no negative consequences for the Centrelink customer?

**Answer:**

In 2005-06, Centrelink spent \$1,251,696 on contracted private investigators to provide optical surveillance.

In 2004-05, 2,577 people were the subject of optical surveillance. Of these 739 cases resulted in no further action in regard to the matter.

In 2005-06, 2,348 people were the subject of optical surveillance. Of these 473 cases resulted in no further action in regard to the matter.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 7 hours and 51 minutes at an estimated cost of \$414.