

**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: HS49**

**Outcome 1, Output 1**

**Topic: Annual Report**

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

**SENATOR LUDWIG** asked on 31/10/06:

With regard to each agencies (and the department itself) that fall inside the department's portfolio, could the department indicate

1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament?
2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate:
  - a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by.
  - b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:
    - i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation.
    - ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe?
  - c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*? If so, could the department provide:
    - i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension.
    - ii. The reason given for granting the extension.
    - iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted.
    - iv. A copy of the Minister's statement.
  - d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide:
    - i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted.

Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling of the agency's Annual Report.

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**Answer:**

1. The Annual Report of the Department of Human Services was tabled 31 October 2006. The report covers the performance of the core department, CRS Australia and the Child Support Agency.

2. Not applicable.

1. The Centrelink Annual Report 2005-06 was tabled on 31 October 2006.

2. Not applicable.

1. Medicare Australia's Annual Report was tabled on Friday 27 October 2006.

2. Not applicable.

1. Australian Hearing's Annual Report was tabled on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

2. Not applicable.

1. Health Services Australia's Annual Report was tabled on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

2. Not applicable.

To prepare this response it has taken two hours and 36 minutes at an estimated cost of \$154.42.