

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: HS 58

Outcome 1, Output 2

Topic: Child Support Agency - Process/timing for new Child Support Assessments

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR EVANS asked on 31/10/2006:

What is the process/timing for undertaking new child support assessments, when will the new assessments be finalised, and how long before the new formula commences on 1 July 2008 will people receive their new assessments?

Answer:

Before the CSA can provide customers with their new child support assessments which commence from 1 July 2008, the following needs to occur:

- the relevant legislation must to be passed and Royal Assent received
- new information relating to the amount of care each parent has of the children needs to be collected from parents and applied to the assessment
- additional income information needs to be obtained and applied to the assessment
- changes need to be made to the IT system to enable the storage of the new information and the generation of assessments using the new formula, and
- staff need to be trained to be able to explain to parents how the child support amount is calculated.

The CSA will start collecting the new information required from customers in late 2007, with assessments issuing from March 2008. It is expected that all customers will have received their new assessment by early June 2008. Generally, the first payment at the new rate will not be due and payable until 7 August 2008.

To support parents, prior to issuing the new assessments it is planned to provide them with information about the changes and their likely impacts. Details are still being developed.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 3 hours at an estimated cost of \$190.