

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 October 2009 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Child Support Program – Optical Surveillance

Question reference number: HS10

Senator: Bernardi

Type of question: *Written*

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Question:

An answer (HS6) to a Question on Notice from 2009 May Estimates stated that the Child Support Program (CSP) had completed an evaluation of the surveillance trial on 30 June 2009 and that a decision was yet to be made as to whether to implement surveillance as ongoing business. Minister Bowen's spokesperson confirmed in July that the Government was considering making the surveillance program permanent. (Sunday Telegraph, 'Spies to target cheating parents', by Linda Silmalis, 12.7.09) Has that decision been made yet, and what was the decision?

Answer:

A decision has been made to implement optical surveillance for a small number of select cases as a business as usual activity.