

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: HS15

Senator: Bernardi

Type of question: *Written*

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of pages: 1

Question:

I am aware that the CSP has stated that it “*does not expect to be in a position to definitively allocate collection outcomes solely due to surveillance activity.*” (HS7, Answer to Question on Notice). Why is this the case?

Answer:

The use of optical surveillance does not of itself achieve a collection outcome. The use of optical surveillance enables the CSP to observe an individual engaged in possible income producing activities. This information is then used to help CSP better target other enforcement activities to address assessment minimisation or outstanding child support debt.