

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

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

### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Pensions – “seasonal income and fortnightly reporting”

**Question reference number:** HS24

**Senator:** Boyce

**Type of question:** *Written*

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

How does the new policy affect recipients who work for 3 weeks of the year every year such as those in seasonal employment? Do they have to have contact with Centrelink every fortnight for the rest of the year to report any income?

#### **Answer:**

Pensioners who have constant earnings from employment, or no earnings at all from employment, do not have to contact Centrelink fortnightly in order to be paid. If this changes, for example, when a pension recipient starts a short-term job with variable earnings, they are required to advise Centrelink of the change within 14 days and report the amount earned each fortnight while this work continues.

If at the end of a fortnight the pension recipient advises Centrelink that the work has finished, they return to the previous situation where they no longer have to report fortnightly.