

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

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

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Pensions – “reporting requirements after a period of earning nothing”

Question reference number: HS25

Senator: Boyce

Type of question: *Written*

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Question:

After what period of earning nothing is a pensioner free of these reporting requirements? Is he or she then classified as a person who at times earns and as a result is required to report income every fortnight for the rest of their lives?

Answer:

As soon as the pensioner advises that neither they, nor their partner, will have variable employment income, Centrelink will remove their fortnightly reporting requirements. From that point, the pensioner will need to notify Centrelink only when their circumstances change.