

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 – Departure Prohibition Orders

Question reference number: HS8 (a-d)

Senator: Bernardi

Type of question: *Written*

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

The CSA also said that they would revise the DPO notification letter and the Procedural Instructions.

- a) Has this occurred?
- b) Will the CSA be conducting regular reviews (eg annually) of their DPO administration to ensure that the changes are effective?
- c) Will the CSA also be conducting regular reviews of the DPOs to ensure that they are all valid?
- d) How many DPOs are currently in effect?

Answer:

- a) The CSP released a revised notification letter on 14 July 2009 and released revised procedural instructions to staff on 5 October 2009.
- b) The CSP will undertake a regular quality review of DPOs to ensure that the changes recently introduced to improve the administration of DPO arrangements remain effective over time.
- c) The CSP has implemented the following strategies to ensure DPOs issued are and remain valid:
 - centralised the issuing of DPOs;
 - restricted the approval for making a DPO to the First Assistant Secretary, Service Delivery, the Assistant Secretary Enforcement Services and staff engaged at the Executive Level 2 classification within the Enforcement Services Branch;
 - issued revised procedural instructions to staff on the DPO process; and
 - provided DPO staff with training in effective decision-making and submission writing.
- d) As at 2 November 2009, there were 861 active DPOs.