

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: HS9

Senator: Bernardi

Type of question: *Written*

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Question:

The Human Services Department's annual reports states that 427 DPOs were issued in 2008-09, compared to 924 in 2007-08. (Department of Human Services, Annual report 2008-09, p.450). What is the reason behind this difference?

Answer:

The reason for the reduced number of DPOs issued in 2008-09 compared to the number issued in 2007-08 is due to the decision taken by the CSP to suspend issuing of DPOs between March 2009 to July 2009 pending the outcome of the Ombudsman's investigation and the implementation of the administrative improvements in response to the Ombudsman's report. There are, however, no targets set for the issue of DPOs. Each case is considered on its merits.