

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

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

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Coping with Financial Stress seminars

Question reference number: HS3 (a-g)

Senator: Bernardi

Type of question: *Written*

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) A joint media release from Ministers Ludwig and Macklin on 2 June 2009 announced funding of \$60,000 for 20 *Coping with Financial Stress* seminars. Did this come in under the \$60,000 budget?
- b) Regarding the list of 20 locations for the seminars attached to the media release: why were these locations chosen?
- c) How many seminars were held in ALP electorates?
- d) Why did WA, NT, VIC and TAS miss out on having a seminar in their state?
- e) Did all 20 seminars go ahead?
- f) How many people attended each seminar?
- g) Did the financial councillors receive any payment for taking part in these seminars?

Answer:

- a–g) The *Coping with Financial Stress* seminars were the responsibility of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), who approached Centrelink to assist with the delivery of the seminars. Centrelink suggests that the Senator's question be referred to FaHCSIA for their response.