

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

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

### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Quantifying Centrelink's attendance at Senate Estimates on 20 October 2009

**Question reference number:** HS39

**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) How many Centrelink staff attended Senate Estimates on Tuesday, 20 October 2009?
- b) What time did they arrive at Senate Estimates in preparation to appear before the Senate committee?
- c) How many hours were they deemed to be 'in attendance' waiting to appear before the Senate committee?
- d) Based on the pay rates of the staff involved in appearing before Senate Estimates, please provide an estimated cost of the Senate Estimates appearance based on the staff available, waiting times and questioning by the committee?

#### **Answer:**

- a) Centrelink's attendance at the 2009 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing consisted of 24 officers who were listed with the Senate Committee Secretariat to give evidence.
- b) The Human Services portfolio was scheduled to appear at 7:45pm on 20 October 2009. Centrelink was advised by the Senate Committee Secretariat, through the Department of Human Services, to arrive at 6:45pm, one hour prior to the scheduled hearing time.
- c) Centrelink was in attendance from 6:45pm to 11:00pm on 20 October 2009.
- d) Those officers in attendance were at the Senior Executive Service level. As such, they do not qualify for overtime allowances. Consequently, their attendance at the hearing did not involve any additional cost for Centrelink.