

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

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

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Referrals to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions

Question reference number: HS60 (a–b)

Senator: Bernardi

Type of question: *Written*

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

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Question:

- a) An answer from a question on notice from last Estimates (HS16) revealed that 32 cases had been referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions from July 2008 to 31 May 2009. What was the total for the 2008–09 financial year?
- b) If less than the previous financial year, why were less cases referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions?

Answer:

- a) In 2008–09, Medicare Australia referred 32 individuals to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.
- b) In 2008, Medicare Australia enhanced its analysis and selection process to introduce a second tier of assessment of cases by a compliance officer prior to a referral to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The enhancement of the analysis and selection process has contributed to a reduction in the number of referrals made to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in 2008–09.