

## Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

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

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** 2007 Federal Election commitments

**Question reference number:** HS73

**Senator:** Scullion

**Type of question:** *Hansard F&PA page 116*

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

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

**Senator SCULLION**—[a] Can you recall, Minister, the election commitments in the area of Human Services in 2007?

**Senator Ludwig**—It would be testing me to recall them all. Do you mean in relation to Human Services or the portfolio?

**Senator SCULLION**—Human Services.

**Senator Ludwig**—I might have to ask the department if they have a list. Certainly I can take it on notice to provide it to you.

**Senator LUDWIG**— ...[b] When you provide that list, could you see if it has any indications of implementation dates and see where we are up to with those election commitments. Perhaps the department can provide some advice on that now.

**Senator SCULLION**—Would you be able to take that on notice?

**Mr Pratt**—Yes.

**Senator SCULLION**—[c] When you are taking that on notice, I wonder if you could deal not only with the implementation dates but with how the outcomes are going with regard to the implementation date and the actual activity—whether or not we are meeting the implementation date.

#### **Answer:**

The Human Services Portfolio has responsibility for the following 2007 Federal Election commitments:

Winding up of the Office of Access Card: The abolition of the Office of Access Card resulted in savings of \$1,145.1 million over four years commencing in 2007-08.

Ceasing the Parliamentary Liaison Officer program: The abolition of the Local Liaison Officer program resulted in savings of \$1.6 million over four years commencing in 2007-08.

Applying the one-off additional efficiency dividend of 2 per cent: The one-off efficiency dividend resulted in savings of \$220.7 million over four years commencing in 2007-08.

Reversing additional funding for the Department of Human Services: The reversal of additional funding for the Department of Human Services resulted in a saving of \$10.5 million over four years commencing in 2007-08.

Four new Medicare Offices: On 1 December 2008 a new Medicare office commenced operations in Emerald, Qld, co-located with the Emerald Centrelink office. New Medicare offices also commenced operations on 14 December 2009 in Belmont, WA and Belmont, NSW. In both sites, Centrelink staff members are co-located in the offices. From 14 December 2009, Medicare services have also been available in Warrawong, NSW, co-located with the existing Centrelink office.