

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
COMMONWEALTH DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Question No. 224

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

- a) What proportion of DPP prosecutions relate to social security offences?
- b) What proportion of monies was recovered through prosecution of these Centrelink offences?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

a) The proportion of defendants prosecuted by the CDPP for social security offences were:

- in 2002-3, 61%
- in 2003-4 63.2%
- in 2004-5 67.4% .

b) Monies owed to Centrelink as a result of the commission of an offence may be recovered in a variety of ways. These include withholdings or other recovery action taken by Centrelink and Centrelink enforcement of reparation orders obtained under Section 21B of the *Crimes Act 1914*.

The following reparation orders were made by Courts where Centrelink was the referring agency:

- in 2003-2004	\$24,215,135.11	
- in 2004-2005	\$27,804,197.43	
- 2005-2006	\$18,025,754.16	8 months to 28.02.2006 only.

Centrelink is responsible for recovery pursuant to reparation orders.

Confiscations pursuant to the *Proceeds of Crime Act 1987* and *Proceeds of Crime 2002* in matters relating to Centrelink offences were:

- in the financial year 02/03 - \$454,564
- in the financial year 03/04 - \$247,660, and
- in the financial year 04/05 - \$148,657.