

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Australian Taxation Office**

Submission No: ..... 3

Bi-annual hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation

23 October 2009

**Topic:** How much money collected under Wickenby? How many charges on foot?

**Hansard page:** PA 23

**Question:** Updated response to Question 5 provided to the Committee on 23 November 2009

**Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP**—No, ‘prosecutions’—46 people, four convictions. How much money was collected from the 46 who were charged?

**Mr Quigley**—I do not have that information. We will attempt to take that on notice to get that.

...

**Mr Quigley**—I will need to double-check on whether the four were included in the 46. If so, we have 42 on foot.

The Tax Office response to the question from Mrs Bishop which provided to the Committee on 23 November 2009, stated:

*To 31 August 2009, tax liabilities of over \$26.3 million have been raised against the 46 people charged with various indictable criminal offences. Of the \$26.3 million in liabilities raised, over \$2.3 million has been collected. As at 31 August 2009, the 46 people charged include those that have been convicted.*

**JCPAA further question:** Please provide an update on the figures?

**Answer:**

As at 31 December 2009, 54 people have been charged with various indictable offences as part of Project Wickenby. Tax liabilities of \$30.3 million have been raised against the 54 people charged. Of these liabilities raised \$9.3 million has been collected to 28 January 2010.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Australian Taxation Office**

Bi-annual hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation

23 October 2009

**Topic:** HWI program – have there been any charges?  
**Hansard Page:** PA 20  
**Question:** Update response to Question 3 provided to the Committee on 23 November 2009

**Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP**—Are there any prosecutions under the high wealth program and/or any convictions?

**Mr Konza**—There have been no convictions. I would need to check whether there have been any charges. I will need to take that on notice.

The Tax Office response to the question from Mrs Bishop in respect of convictions under the High Wealth Individuals Taskforce provided to the Committee on 23 November 2009, stated:

*There has been one prosecution in relation to a high wealth individual during 2008-09, which led to a conviction for failing to provide documents. Since 30 June 2009, another four cases have been referred to the Tax Office in-house prosecutions unit to consider prosecution for failure to lodge returns. The High Wealth Individuals (HWI) Taskforce has prosecuted other HWI or their entities for non-lodgment of returns in the past. Since 2004, the HWI Taskforce has referred 13 cases for prosecution, one of which recorded a conviction.*

**JCPAA further question:** Is it correct to assume that the remaining 12 prosecutions failed? Were there any instances of cases being withdrawn or not proceeded with?

**Answer:**

Of the 12 remaining cases:

- four cases are open (of which three are related entities), and
- eight cases (all of which were related entities) were overtaken by an agreement which covered lodgment and upfront payment of all liabilities.