

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Taxation Office

Bi-annual hearing with the Commissioner of Taxation

23 October 2009

Topic: How much money collected under Wickenby? How many convictions?

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Question: Updated response to Question 5 provided to the Committee on 4 March 2010

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 above question from Mrs Bishop at the hearing which was 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: On 22 January 2010, Mrs Bishop requested updated figures to the above response. The Tax Office response provided to the Committee on 4 March 2010, stated:

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.

JCPAA further question: On 17 March 2010, Mrs Bronwyn Bishop requested a further update on these figures: As at 17 March 2010, how many people have been charged with offences as part of Project Wickenby, and is there any change to the number of convictions (4) previously advised?

Answer:

The ATO is not able to provide updated figures as at 17 March 2010, as requested, as these figures have not yet been approved for publication by the Project Wickenby agencies. The latest figures approved by the Wickenby agencies are as at 28 February 2010.

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As at 28 February 2010, 57 people have been charged with various indictable offences and six people have been convicted as part of Project Wickenby. Tax liabilities of \$30.3 million have been raised against the 57 people charged. Of these liabilities raised \$9.8 million has been collected to 28 February 2010.