

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 16 FEBRUARY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Centrelink overpayments among former payment recipients

Question reference number: HSW 10

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 29 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- At 1 January 2012, how many people have a Centrelink overpayment (including FTB A and B) and are not currently in receipt of a Centrelink payment (including FTB A and B)? (List Centrelink payments and FTB A and B overpayments separately please).
- What was the total value of these outstanding debts at 1 July 2011?
- Can you provide details of amount of overpayments (in numbers and dollar values) recovered from former recipients in the financial period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 and 31 July 2011?
- How much of this overpayment (in total value and numbers of debtors) is currently not under a recovery arrangement?

Answer:

a) and b)

Debtor Type	Number of Debtors	Outstanding Balance*
Other Centrelink payment and FTB A debts	12,617	\$70,208,328
Other Centrelink payment and FTB B debts	1,731	\$11,337,818
Other Centrelink payment debts only	270,395	\$930,704,310
Other Centrelink payment, FTB A and FTB B debts	18,835	\$147,240,551
FTB A and FTB B debts	6,649	\$12,944,438
FTB A debts only	10,180	\$7,996,149
FTB B debts only	3,330	\$3,925,783
Total	323,737	\$1,184,357,377

* As at 31 December 2011.

- c) The Department is not readily able to provide the information requested. Obtaining this information would be extremely time-consuming, requiring identifying whether a debtor was current or non-current when making a repayment, as debtors may go on and off payments several times. This would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- d) Of the debts currently owed to the department by people who are not in receipt of a payment, 167,182 debts with a value of \$348,645,481 were not under recovery arrangement as at 31 January 2012. This information is not available by number of debtors.