

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Waiver of Debts – “Special Circumstances” Provisions

**Question reference number:** HSW 11

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### Question:

In relation to Centrelink overpayments waived under section 12377AAD of the *Social Security Act* (‘special circumstances’) in the financial periods 2010-11 and 31 July 2011 to 31 December 2011:

- What was the total value of debts waived and the number of individuals whose debts were waived?
- What was the average level of debt waived?
- What was the range of debts waived?

Provide answers to the previous questions for i) Centrelink overpayments and ii) Family Tax Benefits.

#### Answer:

- a) and b)

Debt Group	2010-11 Financial Year			Current Financial Year to 31 Dec 2012		
	Number of Waivers	Amount of waivers	Average Waiver Amount	Number of Waivers	Amount of waivers	Average Waiver Amount
Centrelink / Social Security Payments	3,379	\$9,121,744	\$2,700	1,455	\$4,480,088	\$3,079
Family Assistance Payments	744	\$1,207,141	\$1,623	379	\$701,533	\$1,851
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,123</b>	<b>\$10,328,885</b>	<b>\$2,505</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>\$5,181,621</b>	<b>\$2,825</b>

- c) Debts waived related to all Social Security and Family Assistance Debts.