

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Debt Recovery

Question reference number: HS 199

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Provide a breakdown by the number and amount of debts recovered in 2014-15:
 - 1) by payment type; and
 - 2) by Indigenous/non-Indigenous status
- b) How many complaints did the Department receive about debt recovery in 2014-15?

Answer:

- a) The number of debts fully recovered in the financial year is not available.

The following table provides a breakdown of the number and amount of debt repayments received in 2014-15 by (1) payment type and (2) Indigenous status indicator.

Payment Type	Non-indigenous		Indigenous		Total	
	Number	Value (\$M)	Number	Value (\$M)	Number	Value (\$M)
ABSTUDY	0	\$0.00	122,497	\$8.06	122,497	\$8.06
Age Pension	531,200	\$102.28	6,419	\$0.68	537,619	\$102.96
Austudy	270,993	\$22.55	2,844	\$0.17	273,837	\$22.71
Carer Allowance	66,429	\$5.17	8,287	\$0.45	74,716	\$5.62
Carer Payment	245,597	\$28.43	26,753	\$2.17	272,350	\$30.60
Disability Support Pension	657,364	\$101.95	53,493	\$6.20	710,857	\$108.15
Family Tax Benefit (excluding FAO reco.)	748,800	\$82.32	104,270	\$10.24	853,070	\$92.57
Family Tax Benefit (FAO reco. only)	3,098,968	\$382.56	161,354	\$11.73	3,260,322	\$394.30
Newstart Allowance	1,944,560	\$173.98	240,146	\$16.06	2,184,706	\$190.04
PPP	561,182	\$37.93	55,365	\$3.29	616,547	\$41.22

PPS	1,004,876	\$77.03	143,616	\$10.01	1,148,492	\$87.04
Youth Allowance (Jobseeker)	241,881	\$15.85	59,208	\$3.14	301,089	\$18.99
Youth Allowance (Student)	1,025,744	\$87.55	29,080	\$1.58	1,054,824	\$89.13
Other	891,365	\$231.47	38,622	\$4.00	929,987	\$235.48
Total	11,288,959	\$1,349.07	1,051,954	\$77.78	12,340,913	\$1,426.87

b) In 2014-15 the Department received 265 complaints about debt recovery.