

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Centrelink Overpayments among Former Payment Recipients

Question reference number: HS 219

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 23 December 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) How many people have a Centrelink overpayment (including FTBA and B) and are not currently in receipt of a Centrelink payment (including FTBA and B)? (List Centrelink payments and FTBA and B overpayments separately).
- b) What was the total value of these outstanding debts?
- c) How much of this overpayment (in total value and numbers of debtors) is currently not under a recovery arrangement?

Answer:

Figures for 2014-15 financial year.

- a) The department's debt management information system does not separately identify Family Tax Benefit Part A and Parts B debts.
There were 308,096 non-current customers with a total of 492,319 debts. Of this total, there were 127,439 non-current customers with a total of 191,616 debts relating to Family Tax Benefit.
Family Tax Benefit debts also includes debts identified through the FTB reconciliation process.
- b) The total value of the debts owed by non-current customers was \$1,232,458,542. Of this total, debts to the value of \$543,072,626 are owed in relation to Family Tax Benefit.
- c) Of the total debts owed by non-current customers, 237,740 debts with a total value of \$629,323,225 were not under any formal arrangement. Of this, there were 103,713 Family Tax Benefit debts for non-current customers with a total value of \$334,564,544 that were not under a recovery arrangement.