

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question No: 272

Topic: Programs administered by the department and portfolio agencies

Reference: Written (19 October 2016)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

For every program administered by the department and all portfolio agencies, provide in an itemised table the following information:

- 1) The total funding allocated for each in 2016-17, 2015-16 and 2014-15;
- 2) The number of organisations funded under the program in each in those years, the name of each organisation funded and the dollar value of that funding
- 3) The number of individuals projected to be serviced or services to be delivered through each in 2016-17, 2015-16 and 2014-15;
- 4) The total funding actually expended on each in 2015-16 and 2014-15;
- 5) The number of individuals actually serviced or services actually delivered through each in 2015-16 and 2014-15;
- 6) The aggregate staff budget for each in 2016-17, 2015-16 and 2014-15 broken down by i) permanent APS staff and ii) contractors.
- 7) The number of permanent APS staff responsible for delivering each in 2016-17; 2015-16 and 2014-15, the classification of these staff and their geographic location;
- 8) The dollar value of external advice contracted to support each in 2016-17, as well as the number of contractors engaged, the APS-equivalent classification these contractors were engaged at and their geographic location.

Answer:

- 1) The ATO currently has 18 programs:
 - Four departmental programs (Administering the taxation and superannuation systems, Tax Practitioners Board, Australian Business Register and Australian charities and Not-for-profits Commission.
 - 14 administered programs covering administered expenses such as the Australian Screen Production Incentive, Fuel Tax Credits Scheme, Research and Development Scheme.

The cost or expense of the administered programs reflects the payments that the ATO makes under those programs and does not include operating expenses (e.g. salaries and wages, accommodation).

The total funding allocated¹ and actually spent² at the program level for each year can be found in the ATO annual report and the Treasury portfolio budget statements:

- 2016-17: *page 164-167* of Portfolio Budget Statements 2016-17 (Treasury portfolio) <http://www.treasury.gov.au/PublicationsAndMedia/Publications/2016/Portfolio-Budget-Statements-201617>
 - 2015-16: *page 127-131*, Appendix 12: Agency resource statement, Commissioner of Taxation Annual report 2015-16 Volume 01 <https://annualreport.ato.gov.au/04-appendixes/appendix-12-agency-resource-statement>
 - 2014-15: *page 129-133*, Appendix 12: Agency resource statement, Commissioner of Taxation Annual report 2014-15 Volume 01 <https://annualreport.ato.gov.au/sites/g/files/net376/f/Annual-Report-2014-15/node/140.html>
- 2) Details of organisations that are funded using the ATO's 'Administering the taxation and superannuation systems' program are noted at https://www.ato.gov.au/about-ato/access,-accountability-and-reporting/in-detail/conformance-reports/discretionary-grants-and-sponsorship/?anchor=BK_201617#BK_201617.
 - 3) The ATO's administered expense projections are expressed in dollar (\$) amounts, and are not necessarily derived from a projected number or count. As such, we are unable to provide projected numbers for these programs
 - 4) Refer to question 1.
 - 5) Refer to table below:

¹ 2016-17 funding allocated can be found in the 2016-17 Budget column while the 2014-15 and 2015-16 funding allocated can be found in the relevant Budget column in the table.

² Funding spent can be found in the Actual expenses column.

Administered program	2014-15	2015-16	Beneficiary
Program 1.1 to 1.5	na	na	na
Program 1.6: Australian screen production incentive	166	206	companies
Program 1.7: Cleaner fuels grant scheme (program ceased)	817	33	businesses
Program 1.8: Conservation tillage refundable tax offset (scheme ended)	1,853	-	businesses
Program 1.9: Exploration Development Incentive	-	84	companies
Program 1.10: Fuel tax credits scheme	na	na	predominantly businesses
Program 1.11: National rental affordability scheme - ATO allocated	23,985	27,305	investors
Program 1.12: Product stewardship for oil	484	530	businesses
Program 1.13: Research and development tax incentive - 45% refundable tax offsets	8,901	10,608	companies
Program 1.14: Seafarer tax offset	Less than 5	0	businesses
Program 1.15 Baby bonus (program ceased)	-	-	
Program 1.16: Education tax refund (program ceased)	-	-	
Program 1.17: First home savers accounts (program ceased)	37,111	-	individuals
Program 1.18: Low income superannuation contribution - determined	3.2 million	3.1 million	individuals
Program 1.19: Private health insurance rebate - made through the tax system (Numbers processed in this financial year but relating to the immediately preceding income year (i.e. 2013-14 and 2014-15))	628,825	660,087	individuals
Program 1.20: Superannuation co-contribution scheme - determined	509,475	488,037	individuals
Program 1.21: Superannuation guarantee scheme	na	na	na
Program 1.22: Targeted assistance through the taxation system (Interest payments on unclaimed superannuation monies)	198,658	347,146	individuals
Program 1.23: Interest on overpayments and early payments of tax	na	na	na
Program 1.24: Bad and doubtful debts and remissions	na	na	taxpayers
From the ATO Annual Reports:			
ATO Annual Report 15-16 Vol1 part 02.pdf			
ATO Annual Report 14-15 Vol1 part 02.pdf			

- 6) The ATO's staff budget for each of these years at the program level is as follows³:

Program Budget (Employee Expenses)	2014-15 (\$'000)	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)
ATO - Departmental - Outcome 1	1,932,836	1,693,197	1,718,621
Australian Business Register	79,939	92,590	91,258
Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission	11,821	9,840	9,781
Tax Practitioners Board	12,055	13,746	13,679
Total	2,036,651	1,809,373	1,833,339

The ATO does not specifically budget for contractors at the program level.

- 7) Preparation of a response at 2016-17 at the program level would cause an unreasonable diversion of the agency's resources.
- 8) Preparation of a response would cause an unreasonable diversion of the agency's resources.

³ Notes to table:

Estimated Actual per the Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) published in the respective financial year (i.e the 2014-15 estimated actual is as per the 2015-16 PBS (page published in May 2015). The 2016-17 Budget is as per the 2016-17 PBS. The split by program is reported to Department of Finance through the Central Budget Management System.