



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

04 November 2025

Dr Sean Turner
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Economics
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Turner

**Estimates Hearing 9 October 2025, Economics Legislation Committee, Department of the Treasury
- Proof Committee Hansard, Page 120**

At the above noted Senate Estimates Hearings on 9 October 2025 I provided the following evidence;

1. **Mr Allen:** Before I go on to that, I can give you the total number of garnishees.
2. **Mr Allen:** In 2025, it was 15,199.

Senator HUME: 15,199. How does that compare to previous years?

- **Mr Allen:** The previous year, it was 6,150.
- **Mr Allen:** That's because, through the COVID period, we pretty much stopped most of our firmer action activities. Back in 2018, we did 51,000.
- **Mr Allen:** We are continuing to develop the skills and training with our staff to be able to undertake this. We're doing it methodically and carefully to make sure we're doing it appropriately. I don't expect we'll get back to 51,000, but it is likely that we'll continue to increase some of those garnishee actions. I should say that we only take garnishee action where we think that there is actually money available in an account. We're not doing it without some actual degree of evidence that there's money in that account.

I am writing to provide an amended response to the Committee in relation to this matter.

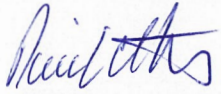
- **Mr Allen:** Before I go on to that, I can give you the number of garnishees **that issued to small business debts**.
- **Mr Allen:** In 2025, it was **11,317**.

Senator HUME: **11,317**. How does that compare to previous years?

- **Mr Allen:** The previous year, it was **3,921**.
1. **Mr Allen:** That's because, through the COVID period, we pretty much stopped most of our firmer action activities. Back in 2018, we did **41,774**.
 2. **Mr Allen:** We are continuing to develop the skills and training with our staff to be able to undertake this. We're doing it methodically and carefully to make sure we're doing it

appropriately. I don't expect we'll get back to **41,774**, but it is likely that we'll continue to increase some of those garnishee actions. I should say that we only take garnishee action where we think that there is actually money available in an account. We're not doing it without some actual degree of evidence that there's money in that account.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Allen".

David Allen
Second Commissioner
Frontline Operations