

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

2019 - 2020

Division: Tax Analysis Division
Topic: Working Holiday Makers
Reference: Written Question from Senator Keneally – 25 September 2020, IQ20-000267

Question:

To enable the COVID Select Committee to understand the impact of Working Holiday Makers leaving Australia, please provide a breakdown of revenue generated by the backpacker tax for:

- a. 2016/2017 financial year
- b. 2017/2018 financial year
- c. 2018/2019 financial year
- d. 2019/2020 financial year
- e. 2020/2021 year to date

Answer:

The following table shows individual income tax paid by taxpayers reporting working holiday maker (WHM) income. For WHM individuals who had lodged their tax return by 31 August 2020, the values in the table include the net tax paid on all taxable income (both WHM income and other taxable income). For WHM individuals who had not lodged their tax return by 31 August 2020, the values in the table include income tax withheld on WHM payment summaries and income tax withheld on other salary/wage payment summaries.

	Individual income tax paid by taxpayers reporting WHM income (\$ million)
2016-17 (a)	215
2017-18	465
2018-19	561
2019-20	572

- (a) WHM tax rates were introduced on 1 January 2017. For WHM individuals who had not lodged their 2016-17 tax return by 31 August 2020, the 2016-17 value excludes salary/wage payment summaries as the tax withheld could relate to income earned prior to the introduction of WHM tax rates.

Data is not currently available for the 2020-21 year.