

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

INQUIRY INTO CENTRELINK'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Debts raised

Question reference number: QoN 1

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 September 2019

Number of pages: 3

Question:

For the each of the following questions, can the Department please provide data as national totals and by state and territory, for 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20 year to date:

- What is the total number of debts raised?
- What is the value associated with debts raised?
- What is the number of debts reduced to zero?
- What is the number of debts reduced, but not reduced to zero?
- What is the number of debts which have been waived or written off permanently?
- What is the average and median sized debt?

Answer:

For the Department of Human Services' online income compliance program, the figures for 2019-20 year to date are not yet available.

For the financial years 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19:

- Number of debts raised:

Financial Year	National	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
2016-17	142,634	1,643	43,884	1,138	31,538	11,258	3,788	36,447	12,938
2017-18	163,713	2,612	56,900	944	17,637	14,623	5,308	48,657	17,032
2018-19	264,022	3,350	78,809	1,306	64,798	19,948	6,776	65,000	24,035

b) Value of debts raised (\$000's):

Financial Year	National	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
2016-17	326,893	3,959	102,343	2,679	72,684	25,182	8,859	82,539	28,649
2017-18	376,790	6,371	137,868	2,382	36,094	32,344	12,124	111,005	38,604
2018-19	772,424	9,161	235,739	3,965	200,592	54,732	19,239	181,931	67,066

*Numbers may not add due to rounding

c) Number of debts reduced to zero:

Financial Year	National	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
2016-17	9,365	134	2,856	59	2,033	787	304	2,400	792
2017-18	2,947	45	952	26	561	247	79	774	263
2018-19	9,306	111	2,666	67	2,142	767	254	2,325	974

d) Number of debts reduced, but not to zero:

Financial Year	National	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
2016-17	15,375	223	4,555	110	3,217	1,396	478	4,072	1,322
2017-18	5,615	81	1,779	36	990	462	177	1,542	546
2018-19	23,205	386	7,213	135	4,533	1,755	652	6,540	1,974

e) Number of debts waived or written off permanently:

Financial Year	National	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
2016-17	6,630	88	2,004	34	1,436	545	212	1,706	604
2017-18	15,551	226	4,996	126	2,721	1,317	367	4,280	1,515
2018-19	11,039	150	3,231	55	2,690	861	337	2,702	1,011

f)

i) Average value of debts – latest value post reassessment and changes (\$):

Financial Year	National	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
2016-17	1,977	1,898	2,034	2,104	1,994	1,931	1,951	1,944	1,885
2017-18	2,292	2,420	2,414	2,527	2,039	2,205	2,270	2,271	2,253
2018-19	2,867	2,645	2,938	2,999	3,038	2,683	2,779	2,733	2,739

f)

ii) Median value of debt – latest value post reassessment and changes (\$):

Financial Year	National	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA
2016-17	1,076	992	1,101	1,204	1,097	1,044	1,029	1,051	1,060
2017-18	1,116	1,188	1,200	1,278	909	1,040	1,169	1,111	1,133
2018-19	1,586	1,449	1,639	1,880	1,639	1,514	1,551	1,519	1,526

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

INQUIRY INTO CENTRELINK'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Debts Recovered

Question reference number: QoN 2

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 September 2019

Number of pages: 2

Question:

For the each of the following questions, can the Department please provide data as national totals for 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20 year to date:

- a) What is the number of debts recovered? Please provide data for debts:
 - i. Recovered in full
 - ii. Recovered in part
- b) What was the projected number of debts to be recovered?
- c) What is the value associated with debts recovered?
- d) What was the projected value of the amount recovered from debts?

Answer:

For the Department's online Income Compliance Program, financial years 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19:

- a) Number of debts recovered:

- i) Number of debts fully recovered as at June 30 2019, reported by the year the debt was raised.

Financial Year	National Total
2016-17	72,182
2017-18	92,338
2018-19	64,290

- ii) Number of debts partially recovered as at June 30 2019, reported by the year the debt was raised.

Financial Year	National Total
2016-17	20,988
2017-18	39,695
2018-19	89,230

- b) Recovery projections are based on expectations that debts may be partially or fully recovered within the financial year they are raised and/or be recovered across one or more future financial years. As such, the projected number of debts recovered by financial year cannot be provided.

- c) Debts recovered

The cash impact for the recovery of debt as a result of the compliance budget measures.

Financial Year	Underlying cash (\$m)
2016-17	149
2017-18	175
2018-19	334

Note: Disaggregation to the online compliance elements is not available.

- d) Projected value of debts recovered

The projected cash impact for the recovery of debt as a result of the compliance budget measures is as below.

Financial Year	Underlying cash (\$m)
2016-17	550
2017-18	246
2018-19	229

Note: Disaggregation to the online compliance elements is not available.