

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.