

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Australian Taxation Office
Public Hearing 17 September 2020

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: 1

Topic: Multiple JobKeeper claims against an employee

Reference: Spoken – Hansard p. 25-26

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: I want to go to some of the issues around compliance and ask about the multiple forms. In the answer you gave on that issue you said there'd been between 2,000 and 2,500. Is that employers?

Mr Hirschhorn: That's the number of employees—or, let's say, the number of individuals appearing in a form. So it's not the employer. Some of them might be as employees, some of them might be as eligible business participants, but that's the number of people who appear in two or more claims.

Senator SIEWERT: What do you do when that happens?

Mr Hirschhorn: We investigate them, and we find there are a range of scenarios that happen. At one end of the spectrum it is that the employee has filled in forms to multiple employers saying that they are eligible, and the employers are paying it in good faith. In that scenario generally we—

Senator SIEWERT: Of that number, how many of those have been in that situation?

Mr Hirschhorn: I'm sorry; I'm going to have to take that on notice.

Answer:

We can advise that as at 27 August we had identified approximately 2,200 employees who were reported in multiple JobKeeper applications.

These represent 0.06% of total JobKeeper employees on JobKeeper.

These employees were reported through 3,600 JobKeeper employer applications from a total of approximately 1 million enrolled organisations for JobKeeper.

All multiple employees and employers have been contacted by the ATO.

In contacting these employers and employees we found approximately 80% had contacted the ATO to correct the error or we could see that they had self-corrected once notified by the ATO.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Australian Taxation Office
Public Hearing 17 September 2020

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: 2

Topic: Businesses paying back ineligible JobKeeper payments

Reference: Spoken – Hansard p. 28

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

CHAIR: Can the committee get a figure for the dollar value of any of the JobKeeper payments that have been recouped to date and also the number of payments?

Mr Hirschhorn: I can give you a rough number right now of amounts we have recouped and are in the process of recouping. That includes voluntary—'voluntary' has all sorts of connotations. That includes both nudged or encouraged voluntary repayments as well as forced repayments. We're talking about \$75 million that we have clawed back.

CHAIR: Can you break that into voluntary versus nonvoluntary?

Mr Hirschhorn: About \$60 million of it is encouraged clawback and \$15 million is forced.

CHAIR: Do you know how many individual businesses that relates to?

Mr Hirschhorn: I would have to take that on notice, I'm afraid.

Answer:

As at 17 September 2020, over 7,600 entities had made repayments relating to JobKeeper.