

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Inquiry into the Working Holiday Maker Reform package

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Taxation Office

26 October 2016

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: 1

Topic: Tax paid by the Tasmanian Agricultural Industry

Reference: Hansard – page 30

Question:

Senator LAMBIE: Could you tell me roughly how much tax Tasmanian farmers and rural industries already pay? Do you have that at all?

Mrs Purvis-Smith: We do not have information on a state-by-state basis. The ATO might be able to provide additional information, but I am not sure.

Mr England: I am not sure either. We would have to look at that.

Senator LAMBIE: Okay. Can you take that on notice, then?

Mrs Purvis-Smith: My understanding is that it is not usually broken down on a state-by-state basis.

Senator LAMBIE: Why not? Wouldn't you want to know? Why do we not break it down that far?

Ms Lendon: We would have to take that on notice—

Senator LAMBIE: Yes, if you can do that, that would be wonderful.

Ms Lendon: to understand what we have got and, if we do not have it, why that is the case.

Answer:

In the 2013-14 financial year, companies and individuals identified as being involved in Tasmanian agricultural industry, and individuals in receipt of primary production distributions, had a net income tax liability of around \$50 million.

Given the time constraints required for the provision of the questions on notice to the inquiry, the ATO is unable to include data for other Tasmanian rural industries and for other types of taxes, such as GST.

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Question: 2

Topic: Backpacker refunds

Reference: Hansard – page 32

Question:

Senator LAMBIE: What is the total expected refund Australia pays to all our backpackers? What refunds do you pay already to backpackers?

Ms Lendon: We have to take that on notice. We do not have the figures.

Senator LAMBIE: That would be great. Could you have for us in the last five years, please.

Ms Lendon: Yes.

Answer:

In the 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years, working holiday makers lodged tax returns which resulted in \$334.6 million and \$321.0 million in refunds being payable, respectively.

Given the time constraints required for the provision of the questions on notice to the inquiry, the ATO is unable to provide data for the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years.

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Australian Taxation Office

26 October 2016

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: 3

Topic: Tasmanian Farmers experiencing financial hardship

Reference: Hansard - 31

Question:

Senator LAMBIE: Can you tell me how many Tasmanian farming businesses are in financial hardship now?

Ms London: I would have to take that on notice. We do not have that information with us. I would have to go and check.

Answer:

The ATO does not have any specific data on how many Tasmanian farming businesses are in financial hardship.