

Oil and Gas

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Agency: Australian Taxation Office
Topic: Government funding under Tax Avoidance Taskforce

Question:

Ms Saint: We've been the recipient of government funding under the Tax Avoidance Taskforce. The task force commenced in July 2016 and has been extended through to June 2023. That has resulted in a significant investment in resourcing, particularly in relation to public and multinational businesses, but also of late we've seen an expansion into large private and high-wealth areas. That latest expansion, which commenced from 1 July 2019, saw \$1 billion get invested by the government over that four-year period.

Senator PATRICK: Could you, for example, from 2016 to 2021, provide actuals in terms of money invested in that area by the government and also FTEs in relation to the people carrying out that sort of activity?

Ms Saint: Absolutely—happy to take that on notice

Answer:

Since the commencement of the Tax Avoidance Taskforce the ATO has actively recruited tax, law, data and accountancy specialists to fill Taskforce positions across various business areas and work programs. This is reflected in the growth in the average full-time equivalent (FTE) employees each year.

Tax Avoidance Taskforce actual expenditure and average FTE for each year of Taskforce funding 2016-17 to 2020-21:

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Expenditure \$m	\$28.4	\$186.3	\$214.6	\$234.1	\$260.0
Average FTE	158	1,250	1,297	1,350	1,430