

Senate Community Affairs References Committee

DESIGN, SCOPE, COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS, CONTRACTS AWARDED AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM INITIATIVE

PUBLIC HEARING 26 APRIL 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Debts recall

Question reference number: QoN 170

Member: Senator Watt

Type of question: Hansard page 53

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 May 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WATT: Just going back to this decision to recall the debts, what was the reason the decision was made to recall these debts?

Mr Hutson: I do not know that I have got an easy answer to that question.

Senator WATT: Were you involved in the discussions about that or decisions?

Mr Hutson: Not personally, no.

Senator WATT: Were you told?

Mr Hutson: I do not have that information for you, Senator. I will take it on notice

Answer:

In February 2017 the Department recalled debts raised under the Employment Income Matching budget compliance measure as part of our service recovery processes.

The Department is undertaking an outbound call programme to people with a recalled debt that had no previous contact with the department to ensure they are aware of their review rights.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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Question reference number: QoN 171

Member: Senator Watt

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 May 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WATT: Who made that decision?

Mr Hutson: I would have to take that one on notice too, Senator.

Answer:

Refer to response supplied at Question 170.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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Member: Senator Watt

Type of question: Hansard page 53-54

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 May 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WATT: Is it the kind of decision that would be made by a minister or the department?

Mr Hutson: I am going to have to take that on notice

Answer:

Refer to response supplied at Question 170.