

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 21 April 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Data sharing with ATO

Question reference number: QoN 101

Member:

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 May 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Does the data-sharing agreement between ATO and DHS allow for the information to be shared both ways?

Answer:

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is the matching agency for the Employment Income Matching Program as it conducts identity matching against DHS payment recipient files. The Employment Income Matching Program Protocol stipulates that ATO's only use of this data is to facilitate the return of income related information to the department once identities have been matched.

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PUBLIC HEARING 21 APRIL 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Zone-WA Breakdown

Question reference number: QoN 149

Member: Senator Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 5

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 May 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:


Mr Hutson: With the committee's indulgence, I might clarify an issue here. You have been talking about questions on notice in regard to zones, but my recollection is that the questions that were being asked on Wednesday were with regard to states. The two are not synonymous. Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I think we need to clarify that. If you recall, Senator Rhiannon was asking about that too. She was talking about the Illawarra, and we were then trying to get the states and the zones because, as we know from just this morning, it is confusing for people that they are in WA but not actually in the WA zone but the northern zone. Is it possible to get that? Do the WA figures cover the WA zone or not?

Answer:

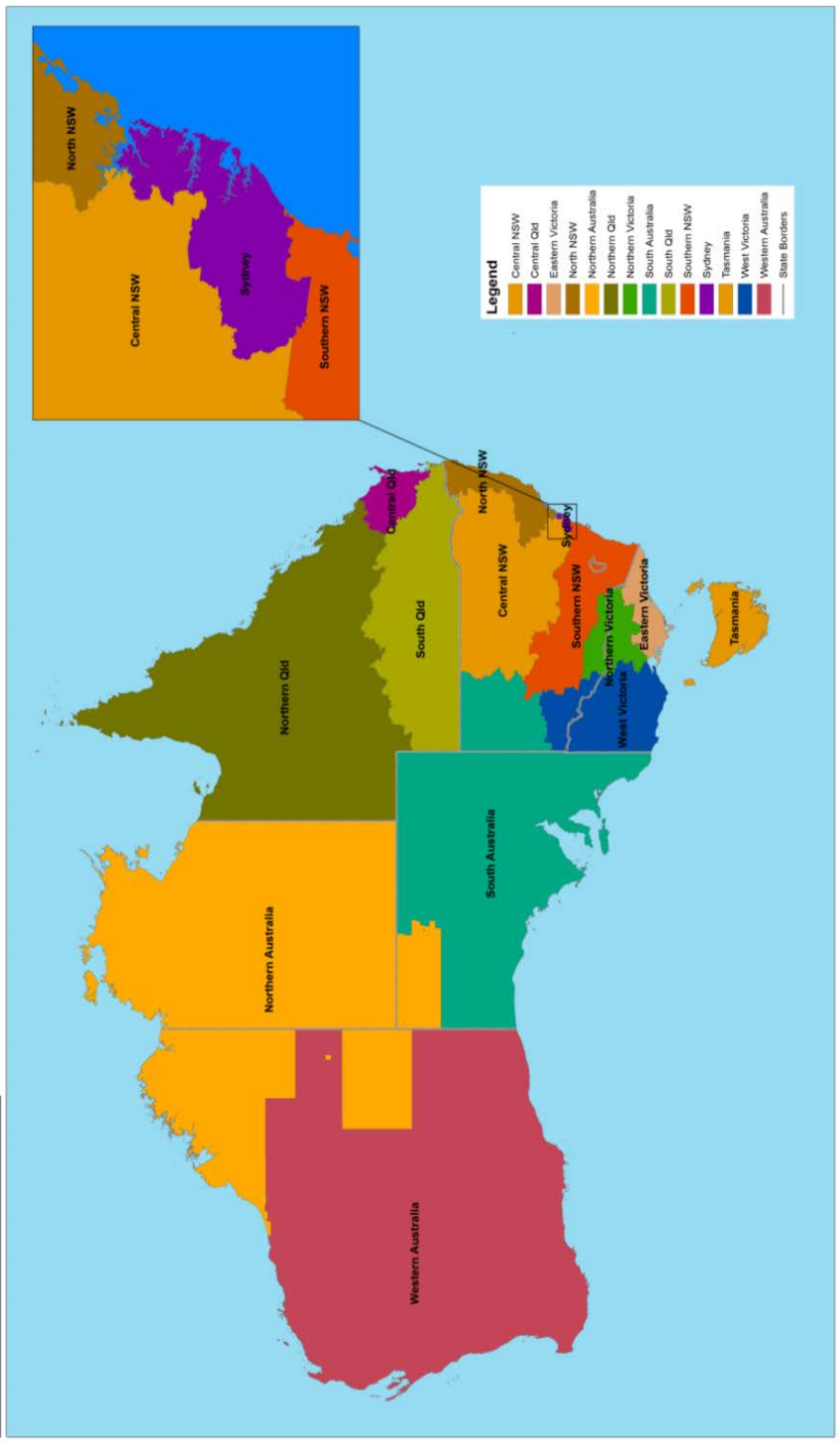
A diagram of the Department's Portfolio Service Zones can be found at Attachment A.

Portfolio Service Zones

Date: 1 July 2014
 Produced by
Geospatial@humanservices.gov.au



Kilometres



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PUBLIC HEARING 21 APRIL 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Omnibus Bill

Question reference number: QoN 159

Member: Senator Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 15

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 May 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: You may need to take this on notice: is the proposal in the omnibus bill, which dealt with income streams, related to this process or is it separate?

Mr Hutson: I would say almost certainly that would be separate, but I would have to take that on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take that on notice to see if it is linked in any way to this?

Mr Hutson: I will do that.

Answer:

Compliance activity undertaken using the online compliance system is not linked with the *Social Services Legislation Amendment (Omnibus Savings and Child Care Reform) Bill 2017* (Omnibus Bill).

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PUBLIC HEARING 21 APRIL 2017

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Debt Collection Agency Database

Question reference number: QoN 162

Member: Senator Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 17

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 May 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: You probably need to take these questions on notice. You will be aware that Probe, one of the external collection agencies, very helpfully gave us quite a lot of evidence on Wednesday. We had a discussion around the database and information being held separately and who had access to it. Are the external collection agencies required to destroy the database after their contract has finished?

Mr Hutson: I will take that one on notice.

Answer:

As per the deed of agreement, in the event of termination of the contract, the Supplier must immediately stop using the Department's Confidential Information and, at the Department's option:

- (a) return to the Department; or
- (b) destroy and certify in writing to the Department the destruction of; or
- (c) destroy and permit the Department to witness the destruction of,

all the Department's Confidential Information in the Supplier's possession or control.