

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Taxation Office

Public Hearing 30 July 2020

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: 10

Topic: ATO Staff working on ERS measures

Reference: Written – 31 July 2020

Senator: Gallagher

Question:

The ATO advised in the Select Committee hearing of 30 July 2020 that 130 staff are working on the early super release measure. Can the ATO please further advise, of these 130 staff:

1. How many are allocated to working on detecting claims made to the early release scheme by ineligible applicants
2. How many are allocated to working on detecting and pursuing fraudulent claims made to the early release scheme?
3. What is the annual staffing cost?
4. What was the overall staffing allocation at? (please fill out the following table):

Date	Total staffing allocation to early release scheme	Allocated to detection of ineligible applicants	Allocated to detection of fraud

Answer:

We are unable to provide a definitive breakdown of the 130 staff in the form requested. The 130 staff (head count) working on the COVID-19 early release of superannuation (ERS) program referred to during the Select Committee hearing was at a point in time. It included staff undertaking a variety of client engagement work including advice and guidance, eligibility and fraud detection. For completeness, the 130 headcount figure does not include call centre staff or those providing IT support to the program.

The staffing profile for the program is constantly changing due to environmental impacts, community response to the measure and the demand of administering the ERS program.