

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Taxation Office

Inquiry into the Treasury Laws Amendment (2018 Measures No. 4) Bill 2018 [Provisions]

Friday 01 June 2018

Department/Agency: ATO
Topic: Superannuation staffing and roles
Reference: Spoken – Friday 1 June 2018
Member: Senator Chris Ketter

Question:

[...] **Senator KETTER:** How will the ATO be restructuring itself to fully utilise STP? How many staff will be allocated? How are you going to use this information? How many staff will remain on reactive complaints-driven assessments? I know you've touched on some of this before so don't necessarily repeat it, Mr O'Halloran.

Mr O'Halloran: When you say STP do you mean particularly with the emphasis on super guarantee?

Senator KETTER: Yes. Provide a breakdown of the staff working on SG issues.

[...] **Senator KETTER:** Rather than going through that now can you take on notice to give me a breakdown of the staffing on the SG issue?

Also to investigate as part of this QoN:

Senator STOKER: I reflected upon that submission over the lunchbreak and concluded that it was well intended but probably misconceived. However, it's reassuring to hear that you don't bear any concerns of that nature. Finally, we've heard some evidence this morning that said that the member for Herbert in Townsville, in Queensland, my home state, has said that there has been a cut of 120 people from the superannuation guarantee enforcement section of the ATO in Townsville in circumstances where that district has the highest incidence of nonpayment of superannuation guarantee. That didn't fit with my understanding of things, but I wondered if you could shed any light on whether or not that statement is accurate.

Answer:

With respect to a breakdown of staff, there are 341 FTE directly involved in casework involving the recovery of unpaid Super Guarantee (SG). There are an additional 23 FTE involved in SG strategy and case selection.

There has not been a cut of 120 people from the SG enforcement section in Townsville. There are approximately 31 permanent staff working on SG issues. This figure has remained relatively constant since 2014. There were six temporary contractors working on SG who concluded in December 2017.