

Department of Finance

Response to Question on Notice

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Hearing of 10 September 2020

Written Question on Notice 1 (Senator Gallagher)

Please provide a table with all ASL Offset Rule exemptions granted since 2019-20 Budget round, including:

- a. Agency/department
- b. Name of program/new policy proposal
- c. Number of additional ASL
- d. Relevant budget round (i.e. 2019-20 MYEFO; 2020-21 Budget; Bushfire/COVID-19 recovery package)
- e. Who approved the exemption (i.e. Finance Minister; Prime Minister)

Response

Details of the seven approved ASL exemption requests for announced decisions are provided in Table 1 below.

Under the Budget Process Operational Rules, all formal ASL exemption requests for items brought forward for Cabinet consideration must be first directed to, and approved by, the Minister for Finance, as part of the full deliberative process of the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet.

The Government considers a number of proposals in the context of developing the Budget and MYEFO, and the recent Economic and Fiscal Update July 2020 (2020 EFU). Information on proposals that may not have been agreed, proposals agreed as Decisions Taken But Not Yet Announced, or proposals to be announced in the 2020-21 Budget are not disclosed as it would reveal Cabinet-in-Confidence deliberations.

Table 1: approved ASL exemption requests by the Finance Minister for announced decisions since the 2019-20 Budget

			ASL	
Request	Agency	Program	2019-20	2020-21
2019-20 MYEFO				
1	Digital Transformation Agency	Program 1.1 Digital Transformation Agency: Digital Governance and Assurance Submission	11.0	0.0
2	The then Department of Environment and Energy	Program 3.1 Antarctica: Science, Policy and Presence: Strengthening the Australian Antarctic Program (RSV Nuyina)	6.5	17.0
		Program 3.1 Antarctica: Science, Policy and Presence: Davis aerodrome - progressing to a final investment decision	0.0	11.0
3	Department of Social Services	Program 1.1 Services to the Community – Social Security and Welfare: Extension of Place-Based Income Management In Specific Locations	0.0	2.5
	Services Australia	Program 1.1 Services to the Community – Social Security and Welfare: Extension of Place-Based Income Management In Specific Locations	0.0	33.0
4	Attorney-General's Department	Program 1.4 Justice Services: Review of the Privacy Act 1998	1.0	8.0
2020 EFU				
5	Department of Education, Skills and Employment	Program 3.1 Building Skills and Capability: Establishment of the National Skills Commission	0.0	48.7
6	Australian Digital Health Agency	My Health record Program 1.2 Health Innovation and technology: Continued Operation of the Australian Digital Health Agency	0.0	250.0
7	Treasury	Program 1.1 Treasury Departmental: Implement Recommendations from the Financial Services Royal Commission	0.0	39.0
	Office of Parliamentary Counsel	Program 1.1 Treasury Departmental: Implement Recommendations from the Financial Services Royal Commission	0.0	5.0

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SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Hearing of 10 September 2020

Written Question on Notice 2 (Senator Gallagher)

How many ASL Offset Rule exemption applications have been made in total since the 2019-20 Budget round

Response

Since the 2019-20 Budget, 11 ASL offset exemption requests were made under the ASL Offset Rule (Rule 4.3 of the Budget Process Operational Rules refers) for proposals considered in the 2019-20 MYEFO and Economic and Fiscal Update July 2020. Four of these requests did not progress for consideration as the requesting Minister withdrew the request or the request was superseded by a Government decision.

ASL offset exemption requests made for proposals in the 2020-21 Budget context (other than those announced in the *Economic and Fiscal Update July 2020*) have not been included as the 2020-21 Budget is not yet finalised.