

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

INQUIRY INTO CENTRELINK'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Services Australia

Topic: AAT Decision – 25 August 2017

Question reference number: QoN 73

Member: McCarthy

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 March 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In relation to the AAT decision with review number 2017/M113469 made on Friday 25 August 2017 in which the AAT set aside a decision of Centrelink to raise and recover an overpayment debt of Newstart Allowance in the amount of \$815 for the period 25 August 2010 to 12 June 2011:

- a) Why didn't Centrelink appeal that decision?
- b) Did Centrelink re-determine the matter in light of the AAT's directions?
If not, why not?
- c) If so, what was the amount of the overpayment debt once it was recalculated in accordance with the AAT's direction?
- d) Did Centrelink over-recover any monies from the applicant in this matter? If so:
 - i. How much was over-recovered?
 - ii. How much was repaid?

Answer:

- a) The Minister for Government Services has made a public interest immunity claim with respect to any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme and to the circumstances surrounding any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme.
- b)-c) The decision of the AAT was accepted and implemented. On the basis of additional information, the debt was recalculated to \$508.28.
- d) (i) – (ii) Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

INQUIRY INTO CENTRELINK'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Services Australia

Topic: AAT Decision – 7 September 2017

Question reference number: QoN 74

Member: McCarthy

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 March 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In relation to the AAT decision with review number 2017/S112884 made on Thursday 7 September 2017 in which the AAT set aside a decision of Centrelink to raise and recover an overpayment debt of Newstart Allowance in the amounts of \$6,863.59 for the period 24 March 2012 to 5 March 2013; (ii) \$636.74 for the period 8 August 2013 to 18 September 2013; and (iii) \$1,841.67 for the period 8 March 2014:

- a) Why didn't Centrelink appeal that decision?
- b) Did Centrelink re-determine the matter in light of the AAT's directions? If not, why not?
- c) If so, what was the amount of the overpayment debt once it was recalculated in accordance with the AAT's direction?
- d) Did Centrelink over-recover any monies from the applicant in this matter? If so:
 - i. How much was over-recovered?
 - ii. How much was repaid?

Answer:

- a) The Minister for Government Services has made a public interest immunity claim with respect to any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme and to the circumstances surrounding any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme.
- b)-c) The decision of the AAT was accepted and implemented. On the basis of additional information, the debts were recalculated to zero.
- d) (i) – (ii) \$6,282.00 was repaid to the customer.

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

INQUIRY INTO CENTRELINK'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Services Australia

Topic: AAT Decision – 7 September 2017

Question reference number: QoN 75

Member: McCarthy

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 March 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In relation to the AAT decision with review numbers 2017/ M112147 & M112302 made on Thursday 7 September 2017 in which the AAT set aside a decision of Centrelink to raise and recover an overpayment debt of Newstart Allowance in the amounts of \$1,848.97 for the period 20 July 2010 to 9 May 2011 and \$7,682.26 for the period 26 March 2012 to 2 November 2012:

- a) Why didn't Centrelink appeal that decision?
- b) Did Centrelink re-determine the matter in light of the AAT's directions? If not, why not?
- c) If so, what was the amount of the overpayment debt once it was recalculated in accordance with the AAT's direction?
- d) Did Centrelink over-recover any monies from the applicant in this matter? If so:
 - i. How much was over-recovered?
 - ii. How much was repaid?

Answer:

- a) The Minister for Government Services has made a public interest immunity claim with respect to any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme and to the circumstances surrounding any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme.
- b)-c) The decision of the AAT was accepted and implemented. On the basis of additional information, the debts were recalculated to \$1,646.64 and \$3,721.59 respectively, however recovery was waived as directed by the AAT.
- d) (i) – (ii) \$1,422.76 was repaid to the customer.

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

INQUIRY INTO CENTRELINK'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Services Australia

Topic: AAT Decision – 8 March 2017

Question reference number: QoN 76

Member: McCarthy

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 March 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In relation to the AAT decision with review number 2016/S104681 made on Wednesday 8 March 2017 in which the AAT set aside a decision of Centrelink to raise and recover an overpayment debt of Youth Allowance in the amount of \$7,452.76 for the period 8 July 2010 to 6 June 2012:

- a) Why didn't Centrelink appeal that decision?
- b) Did Centrelink re-determine the matter in light of the AAT's directions? If not, why not?
- c) If so, what was the amount of the overpayment debt once it was recalculated in accordance with the AAT's direction?
- d) Did Centrelink over-recover any monies from the applicant in this matter? If so:
 - i. How much was over-recovered?
 - ii. How much was repaid?

Answer:

- a) The Minister for Government Services has made a public interest immunity claim with respect to any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme and to the circumstances surrounding any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme.
- b)-c) The decision of the AAT was accepted and implemented. On the basis of additional information, the debt was recalculated to \$5,325.65.
- d) (i) – (ii) Not applicable.

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

INQUIRY INTO CENTRELINK'S COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Services Australia

Topic: AAT Decision – 20 April 2017

Question reference number: QoN 77

Member: McCarthy

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 March 2020

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In relation to the AAT decision with review number 2016/S104394 made on Thursday 20 April 2017 in which the AAT set aside a decision of Centrelink to raise and recover an overpayment debt of Newstart Allowance in the revised amount of \$16,124.57 for the period 29 September 2010 to 30 June 2015:

- a) Why didn't Centrelink appeal that decision?
- b) Did Centrelink re-determine the matter in light of the AAT's directions? If not, why not?
- c) If so, what was the amount of the overpayment debt once it was recalculated in accordance with the AAT's direction?
- d) Did Centrelink over-recover any monies from the applicant in this matter? If so:
 - i. How much was over-recovered?
 - ii. How much was repaid?

Answer:

- a) The Minister for Government Services has made a public interest immunity claim with respect to any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme and to the circumstances surrounding any legal advice obtained in relation to the income compliance programme.
- b)-c) The decision of the AAT was accepted and implemented. On the basis of additional information, the debt was recalculated to \$3,209.04.
- d) (i) – (ii) Not applicable.