

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

Budget Estimates – 29 October 2020  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Social Services Portfolio  
Services Australia

**Topic: Appeal of AAT Decisions**

**Question reference number: SA SQ20-000207**

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Senator:** Deborah O'Neill

**Type of Question:** Spoken. Hansard Page: 80

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 16 December 2020

### **Question:**

Senator O'NEILL: Yes. Did Centrelink appeal any robodebt related decision by the Social Services & Child Support Division of the AAT where a member found that no debt is able to be founded on extrapolations from the Australian Taxation Office records?

Ms Bundy: I'd have to take that on notice. As I said, each decision of the AAT turns on its facts and circumstances, and when the AAT sets aside a decision, it can be for a whole range of reasons. It can be because there's new information in front of the AAT. It can be for other sorts of reasons.

### **Answer:**

The former Department of Human Services (on behalf of the Secretary, Department of Social Services) filed applications for review of two decisions by the Social Services and Child Support Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, in circumstances where the Tribunal found that an Income Compliance Program debt was either not properly calculated or concluded that it was not possible to determine the debt from the available evidence.

One application for review was withdrawn on 27 June 2018 because the debt was recalculated on the basis of other information. The other application for review has not yet been determined by the Tribunal.