

SUBMISSION NO. 2
TT 11 & 12 December 2013

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Taxation Office

Treaties tabled on 11 December 2013 and treaty referred on 15 January 2014 3 April 2012

Topic: Number of entities affected by change.

Hansard Page: 9-10 (proof Hansard 10 February 2014)

Question: 1

Mr WHITELEY: Maybe this is the best you could give me, but this is an attempt to get something more specific: out of the 188,000 transactions AUSTRAC certainly should then be able to say, 'Well, the commonality of those transactions leads us to know the quantum of individuals/companies/entities,' so if I represent 20 of those transactions and my fellow businessmen here represents 1,000 of them, how many entities, individuals or people are we talking about?

Mr Goodwin: I do not have that information with me, I am afraid.

Mr WHITELEY: So if the amount of transactions is available, AUSTRAC's records must show how many specific entities we are talking about?

Mr Goodwin: That would be able to be calculated. I would just like to say that the ATO has access to that information and, obviously, has various intelligence-gathering functions and risk-analysis tools. Obviously, in calculating and looking at who we might ask further questions of the type of information you are suggesting might be available as something we would take into account.

Mr WHITELEY: Would you take that on notice?

Mr Goodwin: I do not think we would be able, as a matter of operational compliance matters, to supply you with much closer figuring on that.

Mr WHITELEY: What would be the risk, though? You are not identifying individuals. You have just informed the committee there are 188,000 transactions. We would be interested to know if that captures two people or 200. Are we talking about a significant number of players who are going to get caught up in the change in the arrangements? Surely it is not a risk to the ATO for us to know that information.

Mr Goodwin: I will take that question on notice.

Answer:

Information obtained via AUSTRAC was analysed by the ATO to establish the entity type.

Switzerland

Financial year	No of reports	Total amount (AUD \$)	Entity type	No of reports by entity	No of unique entities	Total amount by entity (AUD \$)
2012/13	189,405	41,638,796,790	Individuals	52,547	20,249	887,335,159
			Companies	44,481	7,278	14,934,895,197
			Trusts	4,449	1,152	236,250,390
			Other	7,129	1,133	3,079,398,942
			Unknown ¹	80,799	0	22,500,917,102
			Total	189,405	29,812	41,638,796,790

¹ Note: AUSTRAC advises details reported on bank to bank movements of funds do not provide information identifying entity type. The ATO has derived the entity type using internal matching systems.