

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 16 FEBRUARY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Centrelink overpayments among former payment recipients

**Question reference number:** HSW 10

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 29 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

- a) At 1 January 2012, how many people have a Centrelink overpayment (including FTB A and B) and are not currently in receipt of a Centrelink payment (including FTB A and B)? (List Centrelink payments and FTB A and B overpayments separately please).
- b) What was the total value of these outstanding debts at 1 July 2011?
- c) Can you provide details of amount of overpayments (in numbers and dollar values) recovered from former recipients in the financial period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 and 31 July 2011?
- d) How much of this overpayment (in total value and numbers of debtors) is currently not under a recovery arrangement?

#### **Answer:**

a) and b)

<b>Debtor Type</b>	<b>Number of Debtors</b>	<b>Outstanding Balance*</b>
Other Centrelink payment and FTB A debts	12,617	\$70,208,328
Other Centrelink payment and FTB B debts	1,731	\$11,337,818
Other Centrelink payment debts only	270,395	\$930,704,310
Other Centrelink payment, FTB A and FTB B debts	18,835	\$147,240,551
FTB A and FTB B debts	6,649	\$12,944,438
FTB A debts only	10,180	\$7,996,149
FTB B debts only	3,330	\$3,925,783
<b>Total</b>	<b>323,737</b>	<b>\$1,184,357,377</b>

\*As at 31 December 2011.

- c) The Department is not readily able to provide the information requested. Obtaining this information would be extremely time-consuming, requiring identifying whether a debtor was current or non-current when making a repayment, as debtors may go on and off payments several times. This would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- d) Of the debts currently owed to the department by people who are not in receipt of a payment, 167,182 debts with a value of \$348,645,481 were not under recovery arrangement as at 31 January 2012. This information is not available by number of debtors.