

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 14 FEBRUARY 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Child Support Agency

Question reference number: HS 27

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- How many, by month from 1 July 2011 to date, decisions of the CSA were overturned on internal review?
- How many, by month from 1 July 2011 to date, decisions of the CSA were overturned by the SSAT?
- How many CSA customers incurred a debt in 2011-12 and from 1 July 2012 to date?
- How many of these debts have been recovered to date?
- What is the amount of debt, in dollar terms, that remains outstanding to date?

Answer:

- The number of decisions of the CSA overturned, either fully or partially, were:

2011						2012					
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
484	471	468	540	562	462	409	352	367	315	448	397

2012						2013	
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
407	442	414	428	443	368	436	436

- The number of child support decisions overturned by the SSAT were:

2011						2012					
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
79	96	78	70	81	67	60	71	84	77	70	70

2012						2013	
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
68	63	59	65	56	55	58	50

- c) It is not possible to provide the yearly breakdown of debt as this is a rolling figure. Since the inception of the Scheme in 1988, as at 30 June 2012 there were 225,250 paying parents in arrears, with a Total Child Support Debt of \$1.24 billion. As at 31 December 2012 there were 219,292 paying parents in arrears, with a Total Child Support Debt of \$1.25 billion.
- d) Although \$1.25 billion in child support remains outstanding, the Department is focused on collection as part of its core business. When a customer falls behind in their payments, the Department makes contact in order to establish a repayment plan. Since the Child Support Scheme started in 1988 and up to and including June 2012, \$38.47 billion, or 96.9 per cent of all liabilities raised, has been transferred for benefit of the children.
- e) Refer to response to (c).