

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Debt Collection

Question reference number: HS 99

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What funding has been accorded to Centrelink for debt prevention activities in the Northern Territory?
- b) What is the breakdown of the reasons why debts are raised in the Northern Territory, for example – failure to lodge tax return, failure to report earnings correctly, failure to report change in circumstances, member of a couple debt, etc.

Answer:

- a) The department does not currently receive specific funding for debt prevention activities in the Northern Territory. Ongoing debt prevention activities in the Northern Territory are drawn from overall funding for debt prevention.
- b) The following table shows the top 10 debt reasons for Northern Territory for 2010-11.

Debt Reason	No.	\$ Value
Family Assistance Office (FAO) Reconciliation	4,747	\$4,746,759
FAO - Non-lodgement of Tax Return	786	\$4,453,494
Income - Earnings wrongly declared or not declared	3,239	\$4,453,514
Undeclared Member of a Couple	235	\$1,391,008
Form not lodged	1,151	\$1,010,336
Outstanding repayment of Advance Loan	3,086	\$801,401
Income - Partner Earnings wrongly declared or undeclared	741	\$908,626
Studies - Discontinued	249	\$325,645
Loss of Care	700	\$322,469
Admitted to Prison/Institution	422	\$320,060