

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Investigation into income not reported – eBay project

Question reference number: HS 44

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) Provide an update on the DHS program involving data-matching from eBay activities and unreported income.
- b) When did the program start?
- c) How many have been investigated under this initiative?
- d) How many debts have been raised?
- e) How much has been recovered?

Answer:

- a) As of June 2015, the department has completed its assessment of all data it has received from eBay. This includes the most recent eBay sales data of its sellers in 2013-14. The department will maintain its relationship with eBay in the future and will likely make further requests for data. This will assist us to monitor the risk of undeclared business income in the future.
- b) The eBay program commenced in September 2011.
- c) The department has investigated 95 matters during the eBay project.
- d) The investigations of the 95 matters mentioned in part (c) lead to 87 debts being raised.
- e) The total debt amount identified was \$1,745,203. The amount recovered is not currently available and it would represent an unreasonable diversion of resources to obtain this data.