

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Debt recovery - Centrelink

Question reference number: HS 45

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written question

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 3

Question:

- (a) For 2011-12, how much was recovered from each main income support type payment, and in total?
- (b) For 2011-12, show the number and value of overpayments recovered per external debt recovery agencies (Dun & Bradstreet and Recoveries Corp), and in total.
- (c) For the same period, provide the number and value of debts (in dollars and numbers of overpayments) currently under management by i) Dun & Bradstreet and ii) Recoveries Corporation.

Answer:

- (a) For the 2011-12 financial year, approximately \$413 million was withheld from Centrelink payments for debt recovery. To determine detailed information regarding the source income support payment for withholdings would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- (b) The following are the amounts recovered by collection agents in 2011-12:

Collection Agent	Value recovered
Dun and Bradstreet	\$62,030,739
Recoveries Corporation	\$52,234,524
TOTAL	\$114,265,263

The number of debts recovered by collection agents in 2011-12 is not available as debts may be recovered over an agreed period of time with the customer.

- (c) The following provides the number and value of debts referred to collection agents in 2011-12:

Collection Agent	Number referred	Value Referred
Dun and Bradstreet	165,130	\$353,730,449
Recoveries Corporation	165,353	\$351,211,920
TOTAL	330,483	\$704,942,369

The following provides the number and value of debts currently under management by collection agents as at 31 October 2012:

Collection Agent	Number under management	Value under management
Dun and Bradstreet	45,195	\$119,653,063
Recoveries Corporation	49,622	\$125,250,507
TOTAL	94,817	\$244,903,570