

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 21 NOVEMBER 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Member of a Couple Issues

Question reference number: HS 48

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 January 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) For Member of a Couple appeals for the year 2012-13, please provide a breakdown of the outcome of appeals, by level of appeals.
- b) For Member of a Couple overpayments for the year 2012-13, please provide a breakdown by amount of debt: under \$2000; \$2001- \$5000; \$5001-\$10,000; \$10,001 to \$20,000; \$20,001 to \$50,000; \$50,001 to \$100,000; \$100,001-\$150,000; over \$150,001.
- c) For 2012-13, how many 'Member of a Couple' cases were prosecuted by the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecutions?

Answer:

- a) Member of a couple (MOC) reviews (appeals) for the 2012-13 financial year:

YEAR	JURISDICTION	MOC Review Lodgements	MOC Review Decisions	Changed Decisions ¹	% of Decisions Changed
2012-13	Review Officer	2,927	2,691	1,360	51%
	Social Security Appeals Tribunal	372	380	159	41%
	Administrative Appeals Tribunal (Customer)	37	73	17	23%
	Administrative Appeals Tribunal (Secretary)	11	11	11	100%

Notes: 1. Review Officer, Social Security Appeals Tribunal and Administrative Appeal Tribunal (Customer) decisions are those that are set aside (fully favourable) and varied (partially successful) for the customer. The Administrative Appeals Tribunal (Secretary) reviews which are changed are not favourable for the customer.

- b) For the 2012-13 year, 7,480 debts were raised for customers in marriage like relationships. The total value of the debts was \$20,052,729. The data is not currently available to readily provide breakdown of the debt by amount.
- c) The department does not hold prosecution data. This is held by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. In the 2012-13 financial year, the department referred 42 Member of a Couple cases to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for prosecution consideration.