

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 21 NOVEMBER 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: 2012-13 Centrelink debt reasons

Question reference number: HS 88

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Please provide a breakdown of the main reasons for Centrelink debts and percentage of customers involved: (e.g. undeclared income, under-declared income, assets, member of a couple, compensation, etc.).

Answer:

The department does not report numbers of customers with debts, rather the number of debts (as one customer may have more than one debt), therefore a breakdown of the percentage of customers cannot be provided.

The following table shows the 13 main reasons for Centrelink debts raised for 2012-13:

	Debt Reason Type	Number
1	Family Assistance Office (FAO) Reconciliation	541,236
2	Advance payment	127,806
3	income - earnings wrongly declared/coded (self)	81,813
4	FAO Non-lodger debt	74,962
5	income - earnings not declared/coded (self)	73,681
6	failed - form not lodged	33,076
7	discontinued studies	17,037
8	loss of care	14,942
9	rent incorrectly declared/coded	14,901
10	not entitled to scholarship	14,885
11	income - earnings not declared/coded (partner)	14,165
12	compensation charge (compensation payer)	13,363
13	income - earnings wrongly declared/coded (partner)	12,943
*	Other	142,607
	Total	1,177,417

* Please note: there are an additional 111 debt reason types which have been combined under the heading 'Other'.