

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Debt Raising

Question reference number: HS 159

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Provide details of the number (and percentage) of debts raised in 2013-14:

- a) in total;
- b) by payment type;
- c) by payment type and Indigenous/non Indigenous status; and
- d) by state and territory.

Answer:

For the 2013-14 financial year:

- a) The total number of debts raised was 2,230,894.

b) and c) The following table provides the number (and percentage) of debts raised by payment type and Indigenous/non Indigenous status.

Payment type	Number and Percentage of Debts Raised in 2013-14					
	Indigenous customers		Non- Indigenous customers		Total	
	Number of debts raised	% of total debts raised	Number of debts raised	% of total debts raised	Number of debts raised	% of total debts raised
ABSTUDY	8,431	6.548%	3,227	0.154%	11,658	0.523%
Age Pension	1,369	1.063%	376,330	17.902%	377,699	16.930%
Austudy	199	0.155%	24,426	1.162%	24,625	1.104%
Carers Allowance	1,280	0.994%	20,655	0.983%	21,935	0.983%
Carer Payment	2,336	1.814%	33,479	1.593%	35,815	1.605%
Disability Support Pension	5,602	4.351%	84,796	4.034%	90,398	4.052%
Family Tax Benefit (excluding FAO reco.)	25,616	19.896%	191,979	9.133%	217,595	9.754%
Family Tax Benefit (FAO reco. Only)	14,417	11.198%	366,603	17.439%	381,020	17.079%
Newstart Allowance	35,158	27.307%	332,672	15.825%	367,830	16.488%
Parenting Payment Partnered	4,444	3.452%	40,625	1.933%	45,069	2.020%
Parenting Payment Single	7,739	6.011%	57,680	2.744%	65,419	2.932%
Youth Allowance (Jobseeker)	12,272	9.532%	53,753	2.557%	66,025	2.960%
Youth Allowance (Student)	1,234	0.958%	98,703	4.695%	99,937	4.480%
Other	8,653	6.721%	417,216	19.847%	425,869	19.090%
Total debts raised	128,750		2,102,144		2,230,894	

Notes: The percentages have been rounded to 3 decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of debts raised.

While ABSTUDY customers are required to make a declaration of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent as part of the claim process, coding of the Indigenous Indicator on a customer record is a manual process. If this coding is omitted the ABSTUDY customer may not have an Indigenous Indicator coded on their record.

- d) The following table provides the number (and percentage) of debts raised by state and territory.

State/Territory	Number (and percentage) of debts raised by state and territory	
	Number of debts raised	% of total debts raised
ACT	27,857	1.248%
NSW	658,458	29.513%
NT	31,512	1.412%
QLD	513,762	23.031%
SA	185,723	8.320%
TAS	63,869	2.861%
VIC	527,658	23.665%
WA	215,346	9.650%
OTHER*	6,709	0.301%
Total	2,230,894	

* Other - where the address is unknown or overseas address

Note: The percentages have been rounded to 3 decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of debts raised.