

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Debt Raising

Question reference number: HS 202

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Provide details of the number (and percentage) of debts raised in 2014-15:

- in total;
- by payment type;
- by payment type and Indigenous/non Indigenous status; and
- by state and territory.

Answer:

For the 2014-15 financial year:

- The total number of debts raised was 2,350,131.
- 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 2014-15					
	Indigenous customers		Non- Indigenous customers		Total	
	Number of debts raised for Indigenous Customers	% of total debts raised for Indigenous Customers	Number of debts raised for Non-Indigenous Customers	% of total debts raised for Non-Indigenous Customers	Number of debts raised	% of total debts raised
ABSTUDY	14,850	10.61%	0	0.00%	14,850	0.63%
Age Pension	1,434	1.02%	418,207	18.92%	419,641	17.86%
Austudy	228	0.16%	24,561	1.11%	24,789	1.05%
Carers Allowance	1,276	0.91%	19,847	0.90%	21,123	0.9%
Carer Payment	2,392	1.71%	34,570	1.56%	36,962	1.57%

Disability Support Pension	5,252	3.75%	78,007	3.53%	83,259	3.54%
Family Tax Benefit (excluding FAO reco.)	28,520	20.37%	261,610	11.84%	290,130	12.35%
Family Tax Benefit (FAO reco. Only)	14,780	10.56%	368,403	16.67%	383,183	16.30%
Newstart Allowance	36,277	25.91%	322,833	14.61%	359,110	15.28%
Parenting Payment Partnered	3,960	2.83%	35,866	1.62%	39,826	1.69%
Parenting Payment Single	7,570	5.41%	52,265	2.36%	59,835	2.55%
Youth Allowance (Jobseeker)	11,757	8.40%	49,474	2.24%	61,231	2.61%
Youth Allowance (Student)	1,560	1.11%	98,036	4.44%	99,596	4.24%
Other	10,130	7.24%	446,466	20.20%	456,596	19.43%
Total debts raised	139,986		2,210,145		2,350,131	

Note: The percentages have been rounded to 2 decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of debts raised.

- 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	30,388	1.29%
NSW	689,591	29.34%
NT	32,434	1.38%
QLD	539,620	22.96%
SA	196,956	8.38%
TAS	63,837	2.72%
VIC	566,207	24.09%
WA	224,555	9.55%
Other*	6,543	0.28%
Total	2,350,131	

* Other - where the address is unknown or overseas address

Note: The percentages have been rounded to 2 decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of debts raised.