

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 814

Topic: Reviews

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

814. For this financial year to date (22 February 2013):
- a. How many Reviews are being undertaken?
 - b. What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
 - c. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
 - d. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
 - e. Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
 - f. What is the estimated cost of each of these reviews?
 - g. What reviews are planned?
 - h. When will each of these reviews be concluded?

Answer:

814.

- a. Seven.
- b. Concluded Inspector-General of Taxation (IGT) reviews:
 - Review into the Australian Taxation Office's use of benchmarking to target the cash economy – submitted to the Minister 16 July 2012 and publicly released 4 October 2012.
 - Review into improving the self-assessment system – submitted to the Minister 24 August 2012 and publicly released 13 February 2013.

Ongoing – expected to be completed in the next six to twelve months:

- Follow-up review into the ATO's implementation of agreed IGT report recommendations (arising from IGT reports released between August 2009 and November 2010) – commenced in August 2012.
- Review into the ATO's management of transfer pricing matters – commenced on 25 October 2012.
- Review into aspects of the ATO's use of compliance risk assessment tools – commenced on 31 October 2012.
- Review into the ATO's administration of penalties – commenced on 22 November 2012.
- Review into the ATO's compliance approach to individual taxpayers – commenced on 22 November 2012:
 - income tax refund integrity program;

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- superannuation excess contributions tax; and
 - use of data matching.
- c. Refer to response in (b) above.
- d. Review reports must be publicly released or tabled by the Minister within 25 Parliamentary sitting days after receipt by the Minister.
- e. Yes, refer to the response in (d) above.
- f. Met out of existing budget.
- g. Reviews that are planned and committed under the current IGT work program are:
- Review of the ATO's interaction with the Australian Valuation Office.
- Reviews that may also be included in the current or a future work program, subject to a range of factors include:
- Review of the ATO's administration of the General Anti-Avoidance Rules; and
 - Review of the ATO's services and support for tax practitioners.
- h. The length of reviews can vary depending on the nature and extent of the reviews as well as resource availability. However, the agency generally aims to complete reviews within six to twelve months.