

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: AET 57

Topic: Revenue raised from audits

Reference: Hansard page 54

Senator: Dastyari

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: So there are 41 audits that are underway as part of that program. Do you anticipate that some of those will result in legal action where your ruling will be challenged by the company at hand?

Mr Jordan: Yes, we do. Often the timing of that is a little bit out of our control because sometimes taxpayers do not provide us with the information we want as quickly as we would like. But we do have it as a priority. We do want to have either a resolution of the issue or the issues brought to the courts as quickly as possible.

Mr Olesen: I will just correct an earlier answer. It turns out we have wrapped up a few of those audits already. There is \$250 million in liabilities that we have raised from those audits.

Senator DASTYARI: How many out of the 41 is that?

Mr Olesen: Just a handful. I do not have the precise number. There are several that have been completed already.

Senator DASTYARI: Obviously this is all subject to being challenged, because people have the right to challenge and there is a legal process to go through. Are you saying that just out of a handful of the 41 there is already the potential of \$250 million to be raised?

Mr Olesen: We have raised liabilities.

Senator DASTYARI: So you have raised \$250 million.

Mr Jordan: And have issued assessments.

Senator DASTYARI: Do you have the figure for how many cases that is? Is that something someone can get?

Mr Olesen: We can seek that for you.

Senator DASTYARI: Is that something you can take on notice or something you can get now?

Answer:

The \$250 million in liabilities raised is from 39 completed cases to date under the program. These completed cases include audits, reviews and other compliance products. In addition, 41 audits are currently in progress.