

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Budget Estimates

2015-2016

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: AET 46

Topic: Project Wickenby

Reference: Hansard – page 77

Senator: Dastyari, Sam

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: From what you are saying, it sounds like there are parallels in the tactics that may be used by individuals and the tactics that are used by multinationals that you are concerned about, noting that most Australian taxpayers pay their tax?

Mr Jordan: Some of the multinationals are probably more on the legal side of things and they are arguing finer points around the law. The other stuff is just evasion and fraud—straight up and down fraud. So it is probably in a lot worse category of activity in that individual's case. There are a few accountants and firms that do promote these things. Obviously we look at them and we look at all their clients. In one small accounting firm there was about \$350 million in tax through the schemes that that firm ran.

Senator DASTYARI: You provided information for Q1 and Q2. Is there information on the numbers for Q3 and Q4—the four quadrants? If you want to take that on notice so that we can get the updated table.

Mr Olesen: We might take that on notice, because we are now looking at a much bigger population than we had before and we are working through the below-the-line numbers of public entities and how we characterise them. So we will take that on notice.

Answer:

In 2015 there were approximately 31,000 taxpayers in Q4 (lower risk) and Q3 (medium risk).