

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2012

30 May 2012

QUESTION: BET 48

Topic: Proceeds of crime (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator HEFFERNAN asked:

48. In relation to the ATO answer to question number AET 24 during February 2012 Estimates could ATO provide the relevant ATO internal policy documents for collections of such tax moneys.

Answer:

48. The ATO does not have any policy documents unique to the collection of tax liabilities associated with organised crime. Our collection policies are applicable to all taxpayers and contained in Law Administration Practice Statements which, in the interests of open tax administration, are available to the public via the ATO Legal Database via ato.gov.au.

Organised criminals often seek to disperse illegal profits offshore to avoid detection. The ATO works with other jurisdictions to recover these through treaties with other countries for exchange of information and mutual assistance in collection. Australia has signed 33 Tax Information Exchange Agreements with other countries, of which 26 are currently in force and can be used, with the remainder scheduled to come into effect shortly.

Australia is also a signatory to the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters which allows for assistance in collection, exchange of information and service of documents.