

Department/ Agency: Australian Taxation Office

Question: BET 881-885

Topic: Staff and Compliance

Reference: Written – 12 June 2014

Senator: Wong

Question:

881. Do you model the relationship between the number of compliance staff working at the ATO and the amount of revenue that is raised?
882. If not:
- a. how have the ATO justified increases in staff in the past?
 - b. how do you know whether there are sufficient staff at the ATO?
883. If so, what is the relationship between increases in staff and increases in revenue?
884. Is this consistent with the Government's 'budget emergency' rhetoric?
885. How much the differential start date for FBT around deficit levy in the 2014-15 year costs in terms of revenue forgone.

Answer:

881. No
- 882.
- a. Investments for the ATO to address particular compliance risks often result in positive revenue return, but not always. The nature and size of the impact varies according to the nature of the risk being addressed. In all cases the ATO is careful to ensure that funds invested are directed towards activities that, taken together, effectively address the risk in question. This will often mean there is a positive revenue impact from the investment.

Conversely, when funding is withdrawn from the ATO we have been careful to limit, to the greatest extent possible, the impact on functions that generate revenue or provide client services. This has been achieved most recently by focusing savings on "back office" functions, reducing management layers and increasing spans of control.
 - b. We monitor the overall performance of the tax and super systems through a range of measures as outlined in our Corporate Plan, and closely monitor emerging risks.
883. Not applicable.
884. The decisions taken in the Budget are consistent with the Government's budget repair strategy to deliver budget surpluses building to at least 1 per cent of GDP by 2023-24.

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885. An answer to this question has been provided by Treasury in BET 701.