

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

**Division/Agency:** Australian Taxation Office

**Question No:** 121

**Topic:** 'Choosing your business structure' webpage

**Reference:** Written

**Senator:** Ketter, Chris

**Question:**

1. Why does the 'Choosing your business structure' page not include the co-operative as an option alongside sole trader, partnership, company and trust?
2. When will this page include cooperatives?

**Answer:**

1. The four structures listed are the most commonly used structures by the nearly 3 million small businesses in Australia. The ATO's website is consistent with the business.gov.au guidance on business structures for small businesses.

There are less than 9,800 co-operatives who have active registrations with the ATO, including not for profit entities. Of these, 174 cooperatives registered with the ATO during the last 3 financial years (ending 30 June 2017) and less than 4,050 have an Australian Business Number.

2. The ATO is aware that at the state level there are moves towards a national and uniform approach to co-operatives as an alternative business structure. As this work progresses, the ATO will consider how best to provide additional information about co-operatives to taxpayers