

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Australian Taxation Office
Question No: 122
Topic: Active Compliance Investigations - PGHWI
Reference: Hansard page 16 (30 May 2017)
Senator: Whish-Wilson, Peter

Question:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Okay. You have already been asked questions about the Inspector-General of Taxation and whether you believe that position should be taking out an investigation. So I will not go down that road. But, in relation to the workload in the private groups and high-wealth individuals, what is your case load at the moment for those groups? How many investigations are underway?

Mr Jordan: I will hand over to Will Day, who is acting in that role, that Michael Cranston previously had.

Mr William Day: In terms of taxpayers, we are responsible for helping taxpayers. Any private group, with taxable income of more than \$2 million a year, we look at. We also have particular focus on wealthy Australians who have income somewhere between \$5 million and \$30 million, and a particular focus on high-wealth individuals who have a net worth of over \$30 million. We also have corporate responsibility looking at not-for-profits, trusts, and then a tax evasion and crime area that deals with phoenix—

Senator WHISH-WILSON: You have a big workload at the moment, Mr Day?

Mr William Day: Yes, we do. We have over 1,800 staff.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: 1,800 staff. And how many investigations are underway?

Mr William Day: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

There are 2715 audits and reviews and 124 criminal investigations currently underway in our Private Groups and High Wealth Individuals business line.