

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates
2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Individuals and Indirect Tax Division

Question No: 232

Topic: Serious and organized crime in tax system measures and funding

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

1. The Government has extended the ATO's funding by four years to target serious and organised crime in the tax system. What are the types of crime being targeted in particular?
2. How successful has the ATO been in this area?
3. What will this additional funding be used for? Will it be targeted to any specific area?
4. Why was the taxable payments reporting system extended to contractors in the courier and cleaning industries? What are the specific challenges in these industries?
5. Is illegal phoenix activity one of the challenges in this area?
6. Is tracking directors who repeatedly liquidate companies only to start them up again a difficult task? What are the main impediments to tracking such directors?
7. The Government will provide one year of additional funding (\$32 million) for ATO audit and compliance programs to better target black economy risks. Why is the funding only extended for one year? Who was consulted on this?
8. What is the multiplier of resourcing to revenue or liabilities raised in this area?
9. How successful has the ATO's audit and compliance programs been at targeting black economy risks?
10. Can you provide a breakdown of staffing levels in this unit for the past five years to present?

Answer:

Please refer to BET142.