

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20-21 November 2013

Question: SBT 960-963

Topic: Planned Reviews

Written: 28 November 2013

Senator WONG asked:

960. What reviews are planned for the next year?
961. How does the IGT prioritise which areas it will investigate?
962. Has the IGT had discussions with any government Minister regarding its forward work program?
963. If so, what was discussed and with whom?

Answer:

960. As stated in SBT 161, at present there are three reviews by the Inspector-General of Taxation (IGT) approaching completion and one that has just started:
- Review into the ATO's administration of penalties – in February 2014;
 - Review into the ATO's compliance approach to individual taxpayers – superannuation excess contributions tax – in March 2014;
 - Follow-up review into the ATO's implementation of agreed IGT report recommendations (arising from IGT reports released between August 2009 and November 2010) – in March/April 2014; and
 - Review into the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Administration of Valuation Matters – commenced 19 November 2013

A new work program of reviews will also be developed in March/April 2014.

961. In considering which issues to review, the IGT has regard to both the quantity of submissions raised on a particular issue as well as the nature and impact of the systemic issue raised. In doing so, the IGT aims to set a program of work which, as a whole, optimises the benefits to a broad range of taxpayers.

To provide further insight, please refer to a brief to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, in relation to how the current work program was developed, at:

<http://www.igt.gov.au/content/submissions/JCPAA/brief-IGT-work-program-process.pdf>

962. In developing his work program, the IGT consults widely with stakeholders which include government agencies, the Assistant Treasurer and Parliamentary Committees, as well as taxpayers, tax professionals and their representative bodies. Accordingly, the IGT did consult with the government in developing his 2012-13 work program and will do so in developing his new work program in 2014.
963. Refer to response in SBT 962.