

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

**Administrative Appeals Tribunal**

**Question No. BE17-092**

**Senator Siewert asked the following question on 25 May 2017:**

Senator SIEWERT: In that case, could you give me that information on Centrelink debt?

Mr Matthies: In the current financial year, to 30 April 2017, the number of applications relating to debt is 4,354.

Senator SIEWERT: Is it possible to give me a comparison to the previous financial year?

Mr Matthies: In 2015-16, for the full financial year, there were 3,387.

Senator SIEWERT: That is for the whole of the financial year?

Mr Matthies: That is correct.

Senator SIEWERT: There has been a significant increase, in that case, if this is for the first three quarters of the year.

Mr Matthies: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: You may need to take this on notice, but are you able to give me a breakdown of those figures by the month, over the 2016-17 financial year?

Mr Matthies: We would have to take that on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: If you could, that would be appreciated, and perhaps if you could then give it—if it is fairly easy to pull out—by the month for the previous financial year, so I can see if there has been an increase. Also, I want to compare that to the previous financial year, because there may be particular months that there is an increase for anyway.

Mr Matthies: Yes.

**The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

The following table sets out the number of applications lodged with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal's Social Services & Child Support Division each month in 2015–16 and in the 2016–17 financial year to 30 April 2017 seeking first review of decisions made by Centrelink that the AAT has recorded as concerning debt. The figures include applications for review of decisions made under the family assistance, paid parental leave, social security and student assistance laws. They include applications in relation to which the AAT determined after lodgement that it had no jurisdiction to conduct a review.

<b>Month</b>	<b>2015–16</b>	<b>2016–17 to 30 April 2017</b>
July	308	360
August	291	370
September	281	337

<b>Month</b>	<b>2015–16</b>	<b>2016–17 to 30 April 2017</b>
October	289	356
November	242	454
December	250	425
January	240	603
February	299	475
March	290	577
April	278	397
May	304	-
June	315	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,387</b>	<b>4,354</b>