

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Additional Estimates 14 – 15 February 2007

Question: aet 77

Topic: Medicare Levy Surcharge data

Hansard Page: Written

Senator EVANS asked:

1. How many people have paid the Medicare Levy Surcharge in each of the last 5 years?
2. In each of these years, how many people have been earning below the average wage?
3. How much revenue has the Government earned from the Medicare Levy Surcharge in each of the last 5 years?
4. Of the number of people who have taken out PHI in the last 5 years, how many of these people would have paid the Medicare Levy Surcharge if they hadn't taken out PHI?

Answer:

1. Table 7 of the detailed Personal Tables of Taxation Statistics provides historical data on the number of people who have paid the Medicare Levy Surcharge and the revenue collected in previous years. The table shows the results for 2004-05 and previous years as:

		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Medicare levy surcharge	no.	161,620	198,405	239,510	328,780	374,040
	\$	100,177,479	121,011,100	146,718,431	200,901,608	228,440,045

2. Published information does not show the wage and salary income of people who have paid the Medicare Levy Surcharge.

Table 5A of the detailed Personal Tables of Taxation Statistics provides an estimate of the taxable income distribution of the Medicare Levy Surcharge. Taxable income will have a highly variable and uncertain relationship to both wage income and to the income as assessed for the Medicare Levy Surcharge which includes taxable income, personal taxpayers' total reportable fringe benefits amounts, the net amount on which family trust distribution has been paid and also any exempt foreign employment income.

3. See the response to Question 1.

4. Information on the incomes of people who have taken out private health insurance in the last 5 years is not available.