

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TREASURY

Australian Taxation Office

Additional Budget Estimates 20 February 2008

Question **AET 64**
Topic: **Revenue implications of union fee deductions**
Hansard Page: **E34-355**

Senator Joyce asked:

What are the cost ramifications of that to the Australian revenue?

Mr D'Ascenzo—It is not a specific item. It is under the normal deduction rate for a profession. So, it is not broken up into those sorts of categories.

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Senator JOYCE—Is there no way of breaking down that amount? You really have no idea what the cost implications are to the Australian revenue by reason of union deductions? Is that the answer you are trying to give?

Mr D'Ascenzo—We have the aggregates for all of those deductions. You could do an analysis that would say how many people are union members and how much of that translates into that deduction, but I do not have any specific numbers.

Senator JOYCE—Perhaps you would like to take that on notice and get back to us.

Mr D'Ascenzo—But we do not have the information.

Senator JOYCE—Just for the section on union fees and other deductions?

Mr D'Ascenzo—We could have what is in that section, yes.

What are the cost ramifications of that (i.e. union fees) to the Australian revenue?

Answer:

The Tax Office is unable to provide actual figures in relation to this enquiry as union fees are not itemised on Income Tax Returns. They form part of a tax return item titled "Other Work Related Expenses".