

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Treasury Portfolio

#### Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

**Question No:** BET 239

**Topic:** Publishing compliance data

**Hansard Page:** Written

#### Senator Bushby asked:

What plans does ATO have to publish comprehensive data on compliance costs for taxpayers, and then publish targets for reduction of compliance costs for taxpayers in the same way that tax authorities do in, for example, the UK and NZ.

#### Answer:

The ATO publishes compliance cost information in its annual *Taxation Statistics* publication. In the chapter on "*cost of taxation compliance*", information is provided on the time taken to prepare and complete major tax forms (e.g. business activity statement (BAS) and income tax return), and the average cost of managing tax affairs. Detailed tables provide information across a range items and a number of years. In addition to this data, the ATO currently publishes on its website and in the Commissioner of Taxation's Annual Report, information on community and business perceptions on the compliance burden through its Community Perceptions Survey and Business Perception Survey.