

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 35

Topic: Siebel system

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

The ATO has stated in the past that it will now not be migrating activity statements (AS) to the new Siebel system in the foreseeable future.

1. How many programs are currently running in the National Taxpayer System (NTS)?
2. Are all of these programs required to run to support activity statements? When will you be decommissioning the redundant programs that are in the NTS?
3. How much does it cost annually to keep the NTS running?
4. What other information is being held and updated in the NTS that is still being used?

Answer:

As clarification to the initial statement, the ATO has stated that it has not yet migrated activity statement processing to the new integrated core processing system. Activity statement processing occurs in a system called the Instalment Processing System.

1. The National Taxpayer System (NTS) has not been used to process tax returns since February 2010. However, components of the NTS are used for :
 - a. accessing information to support the generation of activity statements
 - b. updating tax agent client details, and
 - c. providing ATO staff access to archived tax return information.
2. No. The NTS is not used to process activity statements, however, as stated above one of the components in the NTS supports the generation of activity statements. This functionality is to be decommissioned as part of a Pay As You Go Instalments and Fringe Benefits Tax Instalment project scheduled to be completed in December 2011. An example of the support needed for the generation of activity statements is where the NTS is used to calculate the GDP up lift which is required to determine the notional tax rate for activity statement generation.

The decommissioning of the tax agent sub system is currently scheduled for late 2012. The functionality to allow ATO staff to access archived tax return information will be retained for some time.

3. Support for the NTS is approximately \$3 million annually and will decrease over time.
4. Archived data is also held in the NTS for the purposes of supporting the ATO's taxpayer register. This data will remain in the NTS until the ATO has developed a single taxpayer register within its integrated core processing system. This work is not expected to be completed until December 2015.