

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Budget Estimates – 09 November 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Social Services Portfolio
Services Australia

Topic: Details of debts being pursued

Question reference number: SA SQ22-000049

Outcome Number: 1

Senator: Janet Rice

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 16 December 2022

Question:

Senator RICE: Is there a policy limit on how far back you're pursuing debts?

Ms Lees: My understanding is that there's no policy limit on how far back debts are pursued.

Senator RICE: That's in contrast with ATO debt, for example, where there is a time limit.

So, you could be pursuing debts that people had a decade ago?

Ms Lees: That's my understanding.

Senator RICE: My last question is whether you could provide on notice the number of debts you're pursuing by location, amount, when the debt was incurred and any different categories of evidence that you have underpinning the claim.

Ms Lees: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

Number of Outstanding Debts by State as at 30 September 2022

Note: State reported on is customer's last known state

State	Number of Outstanding Debts	Number of Customers	Outstanding Debt Amount (\$)
ACT	22,237	13,810	\$57,541,275
NSW	558,561	339,452	\$1,545,128,212
NT	21,404	12,759	\$53,352,382
QLD	445,932	264,226	\$1,089,859,915
SA	96,987	59,958	\$254,206,728
TAS	28,981	17,779	\$77,405,722
VIC	420,367	250,980	\$1,249,914,942
WA	155,000	93,575	\$410,870,596
<i>Overseas/Unknown</i>	<i>9,307</i>	<i>5,632</i>	<i>\$37,290,460</i>

<i>address</i>			
Total	1,758,776	1,058,171	\$4,775,570,232

Aforementioned debts incurred from 1979 to 30 September 2022.