

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: AAT Appeals - Debt

Question reference number: HS 18 (SQ17-000099)

Senator: Pratt

Type of question: Hansard page 126

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 21 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator PRATT: How many Centrelink debt appeals are currently awaiting hearing at the AAT?

Ms Golightly: For this financial year there has been a total of 9,837 AAT reviews received.

Ms Campbell: But that is not debt.

Ms Golightly: That is the total.

Senator PRATT: Nine thousand? I don't need an explanation; I just didn't hear. I beg your pardon. What was the figure, Ms Golightly?

Ms Golightly: The total number of appeals at the first level of the AAT for this financial year is 9,837.

Senator PRATT: And last year it was 11,198?

Ms Golightly: Yes, but that is the total and not just the debt one.

Ms Campbell: There are other types of appeals.

Senator PRATT: I understand that.

Ms Golightly: In this financial year there have been 2,836 AAT reviews related to debt received—that is at the first level of the AAT. Of those completed, I only have the overall total, not the number related to debt, and so I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

From 1 July 2016 to 31 March 2017, of the 2,836 AAT Level 1 debt-related appeals received, 1,391 had been completed as at 31 March 2017.

As at 31 March 2017 the remaining 1,445 debt-related appeals to the AAT Level 1 were awaiting decision.