

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2012

30 May 2012

QUESTION: BET 20

Topic: Lost superannuation (ATO)

Hansard Page: 125

Senator SHERRY asked:

CHAIR: I have a couple of follow-up questions to the excellent answers you provided at the last committee hearing. Question No. AET10 went to these nefarious state governments who do not appear to be very cooperative, other than Victoria and the ACT. We know Victoria and the ACT are now passing unclaimed super money to the Commonwealth. You probably do not have it, but could you take on notice—I will not be here, but I am sure other senators will scrutinise thoroughly these answers when they receive them—the quantum of transfer from Victoria and the ACT?

Mr Olesen: Certainly, Senator. I have a figure of \$20.6 million.

CHAIR: Another question associated with this answer is: does this mean that the states have not been providing data to the lost members register?

Mr Olesen: I might have to take that on notice to make sure I do not mislead you. My understanding is it is the unclaimed moneys, where there has been two levels of reporting, not the lost money.

CHAIR: Which is different. It then led me to think that if they are not doing that, are they notifying lost members from their state funds and schemes to the lost members register? Take it on notice.

Mr Olesen: I will.

Answer:

State funds that are not regulated by Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) are not subject to the requirement to lodge a Lost Member Statement (LMS) to the ATO under the *Superannuation (Unclaimed Money and Lost Members) Act 1999*. These funds are generally referred to as Exempt Public Sector Schemes (EPSS).

There are a small number of EPSS state funds, however, that do lodge a LMS (about 10 out of approximately 35-40 such funds). This is done as part of a Heads of Government agreement between the states and Federal government regarding superannuation matters. Where an EPSS does lodge a LMS the account details are displayed on the Lost Member Register.