

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates 2012

30 May 2012

**QUESTION: BET 49**

**Topic: Proceeds of crime – staff numbers (ATO)**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator HEFFERNAN asked:**

49. How many ATO staff work on this particular aspect of tax collections and assessments (please list details), what particular skills do these officers have and are they appropriately trained to work in this very challenging and threatening area of ATO operations.

**Answer:**

49. There are approximately 100 ATO staff currently involved in tax responses to organised crime. There is no requirement for additional training to work on these types of cases. However, risk assessment tools are available to these staff to ensure appropriate occupational health and safety risks are mitigated when performing their duties.

The ATO's enterprise wide approach to learning and development ensures each staff member has a duty statement and selection criteria that describe the knowledge, skills and abilities required in their roles.

Each staff member also has a performance development agreement and discussions with their manager at least twice a year to identify learning and development needs.

In addition to the specialist technical expertise required to undertake the role of administering the law, the ATO provides training on the broader capabilities required to lead and manage people effectively.

Managers and their staff have access to over 1,300 courses, which are publicised in the ATO Learning and Development Handbook. These include audit related courses such as Fundamental to Advanced Audit Techniques Programs, Access and Information Gathering, Protective Security Practice and a wide range of other courses on topics such as leadership and management. Mandatory courses for all staff include Security, Privacy and Fraud, and Security Essentials.

A significant number of these staff also hold tertiary qualifications in business, law and finance related disciplines.