

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

Question No: 131

Topic: Rejected organisations seeking to register for charitable purposes

Reference: Hansard page 80 (19 October 2016)

Senator: Abetz, Eric

Question:

Senator ABETZ: In the last couple of years have you rejected organisations seeking to be registered with you for charitable purposes?

Ms Pascoe: We have, Senator. I will pass on to Assistant Commissioner David Locke, who has had oversight of that area.

Senator ABETZ: Are you able to tell us, in rough terms, how many?

Mr Locke: I would have to take on notice the specific numbers

Answer:

From 1 July 2014 to 30 October 2016 we have refused 806 applications out of a total 8,555 applications for charity registration (9.5% of total applications have been refused).

Of the 806 refused applications:

- 97 have been refused for not having charitable purposes
- 709 have been refused as they did not provide us with sufficient information to identify if they had a charitable purpose to make a decision.

The most common reasons for refusal are that application:

- had insufficient information despite the ACNC's attempts to seek further information
- was for non-charitable purposes (for example sporting or recreational purposes)
- provided private benefit
- did not meet the not-for-profit requirements.