

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates
2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Statistics
Question No: 36
Topic: 2016 Census – log of faults
Reference: Written
Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

- 1) Does the ABS have a log of other faults that occurred, such as the feedback forms on abs.gov.au failing?
- 2) Please provide this log of faults.

Answer:

1) Yes.

2) 9 August 2016:

a. 19:30 – 21:20

A high volume of traffic was noted on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Main Website (www.abs.gov.au). There is no evidence to suggest this is related to any Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) activity, but rather just Australian residents attempting to go to the ABS website due to the IBM hosted Census being down at the time. Due to capacity issues from this traffic, some users would have been unable to access the ABS website or would have experienced slow page load times.

b. 21:00 – 21:15

The ABS hosted Domain Name Server unavailable due to DDoS attack.

c. 21:20

The ABS configured a ‘sorry’ page for the ABS website which limited access to features such as feedback forms on www.abs.gov.au.