

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 3

Question No. 38

Senator Boyce asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

Senator BOYCE: Ms Ingram, going back to your figures for 2012-13 regarding that wonderful postcode bankruptcy debt agreement thing you did, is there any way you are able to update us on the information in that?

....

Senator BOYCE: I want to ask you a couple of questions about that. For example, the highest number of bankrupts in my home state of Queensland are in three postcodes on the Gold Coast. I think the highest number is one bankrupt per 189 adults. I think there is only one place in New South Wales that outdoes them. Could you characterise why this area is one of the highest in Australia?

Ms Ingram: We do not do analysis of the statistics in that way, so I would be purely speculating. We offer our statistics to the Bureau of Statistics, obviously, and academics, who do more analysis in respect of that.
Senator BOYCE: And you are aware of work being done there?

Ms Ingram: I am not aware of work being done.

Senator BOYCE: Would you expect to be aware of it if there was academic research?

Ms Ingram: I would expect that AFSA would be. I can take that on notice, because I may not be aware of particular inquiries.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

We are usually made aware of uses of our data by questions and feedback from stakeholders. We assist stakeholders in interpreting AFSA's statistics but do not require that they disclose the broader nature of their studies.

We are aware of the following uses of personal insolvency by postcode statistics by academics.

Client	Use of data
University of Southern Queensland research	Analysing local area postcode data
University of Sunshine Coast research	Research project to inform/guide options for future development of Noosa Shire
ACT academic's research	Trends in bankruptcies in the ACT as part of a broader research project.