

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

16 February 2012

Question No: AET 14

Topic: Lost superannuation – amount transferred from super holding account to consolidated revenue

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Mr Peterson: After 10 years of the account being inactive, it is transferred to consolidated revenue. In the meantime it is a holding account as distinct from the revenue. There is the group of superannuation products where people have perhaps lost contact with their superannuation—lost, unclaimed, DASP to some degree and SHAR. We have initiated a reuniting super strategy with various overarching processes, like driving more TFNs into the system et cetera—outward telephone calls, letters, sending address information to funds. We sent a million addresses to funds for lost accounts fairly recently, for example.

Senator SHERRY: I am aware of all of that. If you could just summarise that. The point I would make is that, despite all of that—the best efforts of the ATO; a great job—the number has still grown over the years. There is the number of accounts, and \$20 billion is a pretty staggering figure. That is one of the reasons we now have a greater level of proaction, which is to consolidate automatically with an opt-out provision. That is currently being developed. We have reached a point where a whole range of measures have been tried. They have worked to varying degrees, but there is another measure that is now being considered. You have referred to the 10-year period. Obviously monies are paid from the super holding account each year once the ten-year qualification is up. Could you take on notice what the actual amount was that was transferred from the super holding account to consolidated revenue for, say, each year for the last five years?

Mr Peterson: We will do our best, Senator.

Answer:

Accounts are transferred from the Superannuation Holding Accounts Special Account to consolidated revenue after an account has had no activity for a 10 year period.

Once an account is transferred to consolidated revenue, the account holder may still access their superannuation monies and withdraw their account from consolidated revenue.

The amounts transferred from Superannuation Holding Accounts Special Account to consolidated revenue in the last five years are as follows:

Year	Amount (\$)
2006-07	844,166
2007-08	1,572,978
2008-09	1,623,471
2009-10	971,721
2010-11	2,015,296
Total	7,027,632