

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TREASURY

Australian Taxation Office

(Budget Estimates 30 May 2006)

Question: bet 156

Topic: Super surcharge

Hansard page: E100

Senator Sherry asked:

Senator SHERRY—I turn to the surcharge. I understand there has been a delay in issuing updates of surcharge debts to taxpayers who owe a debt ongoing? Is that correct?

Ms Vivian—We did have a problem. Normally we do surcharge runs at various times during the year. With our February run there was an error. We have recently issued all of those surcharge assessments in May. We had a problem with the calculation that we used.

Senator SHERRY—You had not actually issued them?

Ms Vivian—No, we had not actually sent them out. We then worked with the funds just to work out the best way to correct this error. The best way seemed to be to effectively reissue them all again with new dates. Because the systems are complex, that took us till May. A number of my colleagues have remarked that they have received their surcharge assessments, so I would say they are out the door.

Senator SHERRY—I have not received mine yet.

Mr D'Ascenzo—It is in the mail!

Senator SHERRY—Can I respond by saying that the cheque to pay it is in the mail! What were the approximate number that were not distributed in February as a consequence of this?

Ms Vivian—Just bear with me.

Senator SHERRY—While you are looking, too, if the figures are available, what is the total approximate number of ongoing assessment notifications for the financial year that have been issued with respect to surcharge?

Ms Vivian—That broader question I would have to take on notice. In terms of the ones that were delayed from February through to March, there were about 280,000 for current year, plus another 130,000 held up, so that comes to about 410,000 assessments.

Answer:

The total number of surcharge assessments issued during the 2005-06 financial year is 899,733. Of those the number of 2004-05 year assessments that have issued year to date are 432,799. Surcharge assessments issue in August, November, February and May during a financial year.