

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 11

Topic: "Working Families"

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What is Treasury's definition of "working families"?
2. In what parts of Australia has the Government undertaken research in debt pressure or stress? (please list places/ cities/ towns where this research has been undertaken)

Answer:

1. Treasury does not have a definition of 'working families'. The Government has announced numerous measures under the banner of working families. In progressing policy advice and legislative design work, Treasury has used different parameters to appropriately target these individual measures.

2. Treasury conducts ongoing analysis of debt pressure and stress, including geographical analysis, using a range of data from sources including the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Reserve Bank of Australia and various financial market intelligence and credit rating agencies.

Treasury's Business Liaison Program also provides information on debt pressure to the extent that businesses directly possess information relating to stress levels or are impacted by the effects of debt stress. The key themes from business liaison rounds, including geographical locations visited, are summarised in Treasury's quarterly Economic Roundup publication, which can be accessed via the Treasury website:

<http://www.treasury.gov.au>.