

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 101

Topic: Funds expended 2009/10 Budget year

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

I note that the estimates for the education tax refund changed very little in the 2009/10 Budget, where the Australian Taxation Office Budget Statements (page 204) estimated expenses were still at 1,015 million for 2008-2009 in comparison with the figures provide in the **(Tax Laws Amendment (Education Refund Bill) 2008)**.

1. According to the Australian Taxation Office Budget Statements (page 204) estimated expenses were still reduced for 2009/10 to 1,062 million, differing from the figures provide in the **(Tax Laws Amendment (Education Refund Bill) 2008 which estimated 1,095 million for 2009/10)**. What was the reason for the variation?
2. For the 2009/10 year, how much of the 1,062 million was expended?
3. For the 2009/10 year if the 1,062 was not fully expended, how much was underspent?
4. For the 2009/10 year if underspent, what accounted for the underspend?
5. For the 2009/10 year eligible expenses for the ETR included the purchase, lease or hire-purchase of, computers and computer-related equipment, such as printers and disability aids, and associated costs , a home Internet connection ,computer software, school textbooks and other paper-based school learning material, including stationery. **Is it possible to provide a breakdown of claims by item type, for example information that will give an indication of the most popular type of item claimed, ranging to the least popular etc..?**

Answer:

- 1-2. Please refer to Question on Notice BET 58 for the answer to these questions.
3. For the 2009-10 year, there was an underspend of \$400.48 million.
4. Please refer to Question on Notice BET 55 for the answer to this question.
5. The ATO does not hold this information as people are not required to provide a record of their purchases when they make a claim for the education tax refund.