

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 58

Topic: Education tax refund – expenses

Hansard Page: 113

Senator Bushby asked:

Senator BUSHBY: According to the Australian Taxation Office budget statements at page 204, the estimated expenses for 2009-10 on this particular measure were \$1,062 million. The original estimate in the 2008 bill was \$1,095 million, which is a difference of some \$33 million. What is the reason for the variation?

Mr Quigley: I could not tell you that, Senator.

Senator BUSHBY: Are you able to tell me how much for 2009-10 of the \$1,062 million has been expended?

Mr Quigley: No. I will take that on notice.

Senator BUSHBY: Take those on notice. Can you tell me how many claims were processed by the ATO for the eligible primary school children for the 2009-10 year?

Mr Quigley: No. I do not have that, Senator.

Senator BUSHBY: I think I will put the rest of those on notice.

Mr Quigley: What was that question again, Senator? Primary school?

Senator BUSHBY: Yes. For the primary school children.

Mr Quigley: No. I have not got that, Senator.

Senator BUSHBY: I will put these on notice.

Mr Quigley: I will be able to give you that.

Answer:

The variation between the original estimate of \$1,095 million and the estimated expenses of \$1,062 million as stated in the 2009-10 ATO Budget Statements, can be attributed to the fact that the figure in the ATO Budget Statements is based on actual claims made in the previous year. After claims for the education tax refund

had been made, the ATO was in a position to more accurately estimate the expenditure for this measure.

For the 2009-10 year, \$661.52 million was expended of the budgeted amount of \$1,062 million.

For the 2009-10 year, the ATO processed 665,908 claims for 989,520 primary school children. Taxpayers with more than one eligible child claim for all their eligible children in one claim.