

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Treasury Portfolio

#### Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

**Question No:** BET 99

**Topic:** Funds expended 2008/09 Budget year

**Hansard Page:** Written

#### Senator Bushby asked:

The ETR was a 2008–09 budget measure, which had its basis in a 2007 ALP election policy commitment. At the time, the ETR was originally estimated to cost \$4.4 billion over four years (*Tax Laws Amendment (Education Refund Bill) 2008*).

2008-09 (\$m)	2009-10 (\$m)	2010-11 (\$m)	2012-13 (\$m)
1,015	1,095	1,135	1,165

1. For the 2008/09 year, how much of the 1,015 million was expended?
2. For the 2008/09 year if the 1015 was not fully expended, how much was underspent?
3. For the 2008/09 year if underspent, what accounted for the underspend?
4. For the 2008/09 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..?**

For the 2008/09 income year parents could claim a maximum refund of \$375 for each primary school child, and a maximum refund of \$750 for each secondary school child.

#### Answer:

- 1-3. Please refer to Questions on Notice BET 55-57 for the answer to these questions.
4. The ATO does not hold this information as taxpayers are not required to provide a record of their individual purchases when making a claim for the education tax refund.