

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
TREASURY

Australian Taxation Office

Supplementary Budget Estimates 3 November 2005

Outcome

Topic: Debts written off

SBT-89 E41(i)

Senator Sherry asked:

Just on the write-off issue, do you publish write-off data in terms of—

Mr Carmody—Where debts are written off is included in our statements.

Senator SHERRY—Is that disaggregated in terms of sector? I am asking you specifically here about small business.

Mr Carmody—No, it is not disaggregated.

Senator SHERRY—Could you take on notice, please, whether you can disaggregate it?

Mr Carmody—We could see if we could disaggregate it. Typically, the bulk of write-off debt is very small level debt. There is a bit of a balancing act here also. Certainly on an individual debt level you might say, 'Well, that's not worth pursuing,' but if the community comes to believe that you can go to a certain level and try to find out what that level is then you magnify the problem. So there is a little bit more complex response we need in this area.

Answer:

The total amount recorded on debt management case systems as being written off during the 2004-05 year was \$1,338.68 million.

The amount of debt written off for each market segment was:

Market segment	Amount
Large	\$16.03 million
Micro	\$688.10 million
Personal Tax	\$275.97 million
Small/Medium	\$348.22 million
Other	\$10.36 million
Total	\$1,338.68 million