

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

Answers to Questions on Notice

Question: sbt 8
Topic: First Home Owners Scheme
Hansard Page Written

Senator CARR asked:

- (1) Can I have the forward estimates of the costs for the First Home Owners Scheme?
- (2) How many grants are made each year?
- (3) How many people claiming the grant do not have a mortgage?
- (4) How many claiming the grant have a mortgage of:
 - \$100,000
 - \$250,000
 - \$350,000
 - \$450,000
 - Over \$500,000
 - Over \$1 million
- (5) Does the Department collect statistics on the number of grants that have to be repaid because they have been improperly claimed?
- (6) How many are there?
- (7) What are they worth, by financial year and over the life of the scheme?
- (8) What proportion of the median first home cost does the grant account for now, compared with 2000, when the scheme was introduced? Can I have national and state by state figures on that?

Answer:

- (1) All GST revenue goes to the States and Territories. GST revenue has now grown to the extent that all States and Territories receive windfall gains from it. Therefore, in accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth-State Financial Relations*, the Commonwealth does not expect to incur costs relating to the First Home Owners Scheme (FHOS).

(2)

Number of FHOS grants made

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total	146,414	198,781	134,503	112,372	130,065	142,406

- (3)-(7) The State and Territory governments are responsible for administering the FHOS in a manner consistent with the principles outlined in the *Intergovernmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth State Financial Relations* signed by Heads of Governments in 1999. They hold whatever information they consider necessary for administering,

monitoring the operation of and enforcing compliance with the requirements of the Scheme in their jurisdiction. The Australian Government does not hold detailed and authoritative data of the kind sought in Question 3 to 7.

- (8) We are unaware of any organisation that publishes median house prices for first homes.