

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**TREASURY**

**Australian Taxation Office**

(Supplementary Budget Estimates 1-2 November 2006)

**Question**                    **SBT 94**

**Topic:**                      **CHILDCARE REBATE CLAIM FIGURES**

**Hansard Page:**           **E70-71**

Senator Sherry asked:

*I want to go to some issues on the childcare rebate. According to the Australian—I do not know whether or not this is accurate—the 30 per cent childcare rebate has been claimed by only 13 per cent of eligible parents. How many eligible parent families have claimed the 30 per cent childcare rebate?*

**Mr Konza**—*We would have to take a number like that on notice. But I can confirm that we have been concerned that the take-up is not what we expected.*

**Senator SHERRY**—*What did you expect?*

**Mr Konza**—*I do not know off the top of my head.*

Answer:

The original Centrelink estimates indicated that there were approximately 640,000 families receiving Child Care Benefit who may be eligible to claim the 30% child care tax rebate. Our analysis of returns lodged as at 29 January 2007, indicates that 65% (416,008) of eligible claimants have lodged their tax returns. Of these, 78% (323,628) have received their entitlement. There are still eligible taxpayers, who are yet to lodge their 2005-06 income tax returns. Records indicate that a large majority of these will lodge through the tax agent lodgment program.

The Tax Office, in accordance with the announcement by the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer on 9 November 2006, is now automatically amending the assessments of eligible taxpayers who lodged their tax return but did not claim their 30% child care tax rebate.