

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TREASURY

Australian Taxation Office

Supplementary Budget Estimates 22 October 2008

Question **SBT 42**
Topic: **Targeting athletes of high status**
Hansard Page: **Written QON**

Senator Bushby asked:

1. Has the Tax Office decided to target athletes of high status by way of increased scrutiny and audits this year?
2. If so, what particular categories of sports stars will be targeted?
3. Why did the Tax Office specifically choose to target sports stars this year? Was this related to the Olympics?

Answer:

The Tax Office is not specifically targeting athletes of high status. However, compliance activity undertaken this year includes:

- Reviews of sportspeople connected to major sporting codes are regularly conducted to ensure compliance with obligations to lodge income tax returns and activity statements. Overdue documents are being pursued, with priority given to those taxpayers with higher incomes or more than one overdue document.
- Audits of a small number of footballers that were part of the Major Sporting Club project undertaken last year are currently being finalised.
- A number of reviews of cricket players or officials have occurred to determine if the income that has been declared is correct. Where those persons are beneficiaries, trustees, shareholders or directors of any associated entity, the nature of that relationship has been explored.