

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0944_11

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

DEBTS OF WORKING AGE PAYMENT RECIPIENTS

For the 2 financial periods 2009-10 and 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010:

1. Can you please provide information on the number and value of all Centrelink debts held by working-age payment recipients in total, broken down by state and territory?
2. Can you please provide the number and value of all Centrelink debts held by working-age payment recipients broken down by age and gender?

Answer

In 2009-10, approximately 720 100 new working age payment debts, with a value of approximately \$523 million, were raised, \$357 million of debt was recovered by Centrelink and its contracted mercantile agents, and \$16 million was waived under provisions of the Social Security Act 1991 or *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

From July 2010 to 31 December 2010, approximately 364 500 new working age payment debts, with a value of approximately \$264 million, were raised, \$199 million of debt was recovered by Centrelink and its contracted mercantile agents, and \$8 million was waived under provisions of the Social Security Act 1991 or *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

The number and value of debts held by recipients of working age payments, broken down by state/territory and age and gender for both these periods are set out in the tables below.

Value of debts by State for working age payments*

State/Territory	Debt raised 1 Jul 2009 – 30 Jun 2010 (\$)	Debt raised 1 Jul 2010 – 31Dec2010 (\$)
NSW	164,961,639	83,741,844
VIC	121,447,825	57,421,083
QLD	119,901,139	62,198,800
WA	45,291,123	22,483,901
SA	42,042,701	20,811,480
TAS	12,542,854	5,945,133
ACT	5,353,286	2,828,888
NT	8,213,363	4,436,931
<i>State Not Available</i>	3,628,930	3,785,413
<i>Total</i>	523,382,861	263,653,472
<i>Debt Recovered</i>	357,385,403	198,514,925
<i>Debt Waived</i>	15,757,845	7,990,244

Number of debts by State for working age payments*

State/Territory	No of debts raised 1 Jul 2009 – 30 Jun 2010	No of debts raised 1 Jul 2010 – 31Dec2010
NSW	218,139	104,903
VIC	160,394	81,607
QLD	165,573	85,873
WA	70,301	32,439
SA	60,325	31,379
TAS	20,187	9,837
ACT	6,175	3,028
NT	13,618	6,470
<i>State Not Available</i>	5,538	8,960
<i>Total</i>	720,250	364,496

Value of debts by Gender and Age for working age payments*

	Debt raised 1 Jul 2009 – 30 Jun 2010 (\$)	Debt raised 1 Jul 2010 – 31Dec2010 (\$)
Female		
Age 15-24	39,905,859	25,154,952
Age 25-34	108,015,207	52,057,931
Age 35-44	99,285,288	43,549,234
Age 45-54	47,535,245	20,983,604
Age 55-64	22,321,600	10,191,637
Age 65+	2,093,875	634,230
<i>Age Not Available</i>	1,221	3,711
<i>Total</i>	319,158,295	152,575,297
Male		
Age 15-24	30,699,615	21,781,778
Age 25-34	63,320,003	33,254,748
Age 35-44	53,295,122	27,435,869
Age 45-54	32,848,208	16,752,033
Age 55-64	20,721,965	10,954,334
Age 65+	3,338,839	898,450
<i>Age Not Available</i>	0	0
<i>Total</i>	204,223,752	111,077,211
Total		
Age 15-24	70,605,474	46,936,729
Age 25-34	171,335,210	85,312,678
Age 35-44	152,580,410	70,985,102
Age 45-54	80,383,453	37,735,637
Age 55-64	43,043,565	21,145,971
Age 65+	5,432,714	1,532,680
<i>Age Not Available</i>	1,221	3,711
<i>Gender Not available</i>	815	964
<i>Total</i>	523,382,861	263,653,472
<i>Debt Recovered</i>	357,385,403	198,514,925
<i>Debt Waived</i>	15,757,845	7,990,244

No of debts by Gender and Age for working age payments*

	No of debts raised 1 Jul 2009 – 30 Jun 2010 (\$)	No of debts raised 1 Jul 2010 – 31 Dec 2010 (\$)
Female		
Age 15-24	75,635	44,195
Age 25-34	109,926	51,822
Age 35-44	112,208	51,628
Age 45-54	69,885	31,566
Age 55-64	39,279	17,850
Age 65+	1,028	276
Age Not Available	5	3
<i>Total</i>	407,966	197,340
Male		
Age 15-24	70,635	46,043
Age 25-34	90,726	46,837
Age 35-44	69,752	35,401
Age 45-54	44,694	22,347
Age 55-64	33,044	16,064
Age 65+	3,431	462
Age Not Available	0	0
<i>Total</i>	312,282	167,154
Total		
Age 15-24	146,270	90,238
Age 25-34	200,652	98,659
Age 35-44	181,960	87,029
Age 45-54	114,579	53,913
Age 55-64	72,323	33,914
Age 65+	4,459	738
Age Not Available	5	3
Gender Not Available	2	2
<i>Total</i>	720,250	364,496

Notes

Data is sourced from Centrelink administrative data

*Debts relate to the following payments: Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment (Single), Parenting Payment (Partnered), Youth Allowance (Other), Sickness Allowance, Widow Allowance, Pensioner Education Supplement, Partner Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, other DEEWR supplementary payments.