

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Department of Human Services and agencies**

Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 26 May 2005

**Question: HS97**

**Outcome 1, Output Group 1.1**

**Topic: Centrelink – Youth Allowance Debts**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written**

**SENATOR EVANS** asked on 26 May 2005:

(1) Please provide full details of the number of and value of debts raised by Centrelink from students receiving Youth Allowance who went from studying full time, to part time?

(2) Please provide a summary table showing the number of these debts that were appealed to Authorised Review Officers, SSAT and AAT over the last three financial years, and indicate whether the appeal was upheld/rejected at each of these stages.

(3) How many youth allowance debts have been referred to the Director of Public Prosecution, for each of the last three financial years? Please provide details.

**Answer:**

(1) The following table provides data on students on Youth Allowance where a debt has been incurred due to insufficient workload, eligibility period or study change. The data covers secondary and non secondary schooling.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Insufficient Workload</b>		<b>Eligibility Period / Study change</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>\$</b>
2003-04	11,317	39,803,478	31	145,945
1 July 2004 to 31 May 2005	6,834	21,428,210	14	30,731

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(2) The following table provides data showing the number of Youth Allowance debts that were appealed to Authorised Review Officers, Social Security Appeals Tribunal and Administrative Appeals Tribunal over the last three financial years, and whether the appeal was upheld or rejected.

**Youth Allowance Student Status Debts**

	<b>Lodged</b>	<b>Decided</b>	<b>Affirmed</b>	<b>Set Aside / Varied</b>	<b>Withdrawn / Dismissed</b>
ARO					
<b>2002-03</b>	463	462	282	174	6
<b>2003-04</b>	477	468	238	225	5
<b>2004-05 YTD</b>	411	400	214	184	2
SSAT					
<b>2002-03</b>	121	130	56	65	9
<b>2003-04</b>	114	103	40	55	8
<b>2004-05 YTD</b>	104	117	60	49	8
AAT Customer					
<b>2002-03</b>	14	13	1	4	8
<b>2003-04</b>	14	20	4	1	15
<b>2004-05 YTD</b>	16	16	-	3	13
AAT Sec Appeal					
<b>2002-03</b>	4	4	1	2	1
<b>2003-04</b>	2	3	1	-	2
<b>2004-05 YTD</b>	3	2	2	-	-

(3) The following table shows the number of Youth Allowance cases for students referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for the last three financial years.

<b>Youth Allowance (Student) cases - Referrals to the Director of Public Prosecutions</b>	
<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Referrals</b>
2002-03	424
2003-04	529
2004-05 to 31 May 2005	449