

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 MAY 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Age breakdown of 'ended with arrears' child support cases

Question reference number: HS7

Senator: FIFIELD

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA page 93-94

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIFIELD—What does ended mean?

Ms Godwin—It means the child has turned 18.

Senator FIFIELD—Do you effectively write those off?

Ms Godwin—No.

Senator FIFIELD—Do you ever write them off?

Ms Godwin—No. That is why each time I have said this I have said it includes 'ended with arrears' because regardless of when the case ended that case with the arrears remains what we call active until we can resolve—if we can resolve—the outstanding arrears. Of course there are some of those cases that have been outstanding for many years. I could give you an age breakdown but I just do not have one with me.

Senator FIFIELD—If you could provide that, that would be good. Thank you.

Answer:

- Of the Total Child Support Debt (TCSD) outstanding at 31 May 2010, \$850.8 million related to active child support cases while \$308.1 million was associated with 63,153 Ended with Arrears cases.
- Table 1 represents the outstanding child support payments, on ended cases, by the age of the outstanding debt.

**Table 1: Outstanding debts by age of debt
(Ended with Arrears cases)**

Age of liability raised, not yet paid	Child Support Debt
> 15 yrs	\$ 17,130,400
10 - 15 yrs	\$ 35,687,234
5 - 10 yrs	\$ 85,335,421
1 - 5 yrs	\$ 132,562,141
< 1 yr	\$ 37,341,838
TOTAL	\$ 308,057,034

Age of unpaid liability for cases currently Ended with Arrears