

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 October 2009 ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Centrelink Debt

Question reference number: HS51 (a-b)

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: *Written*

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Please provide the number of recipients with Centrelink debts under management in 2008/09. By payment type and Family Tax Benefit.
- b) Please provide the total value of these debts per type of payment and numbers per payment type, for 2007/08 and 2008/09.

Answer:

Debts Outstanding¹ Belonging to Current Customers² that are under recovery³ as at 30 June 2009

Benefit Group	Customers	Amount Outstanding (\$)	Outstanding Debts
Age Pension	19,574	72,316,252	23,137
Age Pension Related Payments	377	1,639,699	441
Disability Support & Sickness Allowance	32,268	126,625,412	46,348
Disability & Sickness Related Payments	9,570	28,926,181	12,342
Newstart Allowance	81,733	157,367,295	127,720
Newstart Related Payments	1,901	12,431,354	2,214
Youth Jobseeker	15,693	10,622,747	15,855
Youth Student, Apprentice & Austudy	29,090	58,356,519	33,483
Abstudy	6,276	12,833,422	8,243
Assistance to Isolated Children	298	302,974	385
Youth & Student Related Payments	3,098	2,184,848	3,367
Family Tax Benefit	49,320	37,070,250	62,167
Child Care Assistance	31	20,826	31
Family Related Payments	1,599	6,751,397	1,738
FAO Reconciliation	88,176	428,784,236	132,483
Parenting Payment	87,851	361,893,882	127,583
Parenting Related Payments	1,460	20,039,733	1,557
Special Circumstances	2,327	13,887,840	2,930
Recovered on behalf of other agencies	1,041	4,822,850	1,071
Other	40	395,017	40
Total	354,289⁴	1,357,272,734	603,135

As at 30 June 2008

Benefit Group	Customers	Amount Outstanding (\$)	Outstanding Debts
Age Pension	17,469	82,536,711	20,710
Age Pension Related Payments	409	1,583,673	478
Disability Support & Sickness Allowance	30,063	109,537,851	42,364
Disability & Sickness Related Payments	8,743	25,080,825	11,096
Newstart Allowance	68,143	121,382,601	103,602
Newstart Related Payments	2,091	12,896,852	2,445
Youth Jobseeker	15,006	8,645,096	13,276
Youth Student, Apprentice & Austudy	27,037	48,268,064	30,561
Abstudy	6,378	12,319,961	8,327
Assistance to Isolated Children	281	284,922	372
Youth & Student Related Payments	3,198	2,282,665	3,446
Family Tax Benefit	45,755	30,992,230	57,094
Child Care Assistance	13	14,953	13
Family Related Payments	1,592	6,212,988	1,725
FAO Reconciliation	85,272	411,991,377	128,757
Parenting Payment	88,542	300,167,109	126,023
Parenting Related Payments	1,702	21,797,709	1,810
Special Circumstances	2,252	12,799,536	2,810
Recovered on behalf of other agencies	967	4,420,126	1,001
Other	53	545,409	53
Total	332,073⁴	1,193,760,658	555,963

Notes:

1. Includes debts temporarily written-off and debts referred to a Mercantile Agent.
2. Customer is in receipt of an Income Support Payment as at the reporting date.
3. Debt is deemed "Under Recovery" if customer has made at least one repayment within 30 days of the reporting date.
4. Total Customer count is less than the sum of individual counts because customers may have more than one debt.