

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: HS52

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: *Written*

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What is the amount of Centrelink overpayments recovered and numbers affected in 2007-08, by Centrelink, Dunn & Bradstreet and RC Mercantile agents?

Answer:

Total Centrelink debt recovered in 2007-08:

- \$1,139.40 million.

The mercantile agent figures for the 2007-08 financial year were approximately:

- 356,000 debts referred to the value of \$366 million; and
- \$50 million recovered.

The release of individual company performance figures for Mercantile Agents, into the public domain, is inappropriate as it may result in conclusions about performance being drawn without the knowledge of individual contract circumstances. It is also possible release of individual company information may lead to a perception of unfair advantage to competitors.