

Question on Notice

No. 332

Asked on 31 March 2022

MR J MCDONALD ASKED TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT (HON C DICK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to SPER debt—

Will the Treasurer provide a breakdown (in dollar value) of the debt (reported separately for each of the last two financial years and financial year to date) that has been (a) paid, (b) written off or (c) satisfied via the use of a work and development order?

ANSWER:

I am advised that the table below shows the value of SPER debt collected or resolved by a work and development order from 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2022.

Table: Value of SPER debt collections, or resolved by a work and development order, by financial year¹		
Financial Year	Collections (\$ million)	Resolved by a work and development order (\$ million)
2019-20	269.4	3.7
2020-21	266.3	1.8
2021-22 to 31 March 2022	229.3 (300.4 projected for Financial Year)	2.5
Notes		
1. The financial year relates to when debt was collected, or resolved by a work and development order. This includes debts which were referred to SPER in earlier years.		

I am advised that SPER is enhancing its enforcement activities, and is projected to reach record collections of \$300.4 million this financial year.

I am advised that the table below shows SPER debt write-offs in the period since 2011-12.

Table: SPER debt write offs by financial year¹	
Financial Year	Write offs (\$ million)
2021-22	\$105.8 (to end March)
2020-21	\$37.4
2019-20	\$7.9
2018-19	\$17.4
2017-18	\$3
2016-17	\$4.9
2015-16	\$6.1
2014-15	\$8.2
2013-14	\$18.1
2012-13	\$102
2011-12	\$8.9
Notes	
1. The financial year relates to when debt was written off. This includes debts which were referred to SPER in earlier years.	

I am advised that 2021-22 SPER debt write-offs of \$105.8 million, to the end of March 2022, are comprised of:

- Deceased individuals - \$3.2 million;
- Deregistered companies - \$30.2 million; and
- Debts older than 5 years where no contact can be established, no payments made, no new debts incurred - \$72.4 million.

I am advised that, in relation to the third category listed above, the State retains an ongoing legal right to recover debts written off should debtors be located.