

MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION — PORTFOLIOS — DEBT COLLECTION AGENCIES

177. Ms M.J. Davies to the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:

As at 31 May 2021, for all agencies or departments under the Minister's responsibility, please identify:

- (a) The debt collection agencies which currently have contractual agreements; and
- (b) If there are active debt recovery actions and what are the total values of debt sought per agency or department?

Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

This answer covers multiple Ministers' portfolios, including Disability Services, Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Housing; Youth; and Child Protection, Women's Interests, Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services portfolios.

- (a) The Department of Communities is comprised of three legal entities which are the Department of Communities, Housing Authority and Disability Services Commission.

The Department of Communities and Disability Services Commission use the State Solicitors Office for their debt recovery.

The Housing Authority has one contractual agreement for debt recovery with Baycorp.

- (b) As at 31 May 2021:

The Department of Communities was actively managing, through the State Solicitors Office, a debt of \$13,168.

The Disability Services Commission had no active debt recovery actions.

The Housing Authority had a total debt of \$63,083,425.99 and was actively managing, through Baycorp, a debt of \$12,615,333.40.

The Housing Authority offers the Debt Discount Scheme to previous and current tenants paying back debts related to a previous tenancy. Through the Debt Discount Scheme the client will repay 50 per cent of their debt through a repayment arrangement and when this has occurred the remainder of the debt is discounted.