| **Table 65:** Description of child support compliance and enforcement activities | | |
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| **Activity** | **Description** | **Results** |
| Employer withholding from wages and salaries | The department may initiate this measure for both current liability and child support debt. | 63,924 active paying parents had employer withholding payments set up at 30 June 2013, compared with 65,910 at 30 June 2012. |
| Deductions from Centrelink payments and DVA payments | These deductions may be made for both current liability and child support debt. | We collected $26.7 million from Centrelink and DVA payments in 2012–13, compared with $25.1 million in 2011–12. |
| Interception of tax refunds | A tax refund may be intercepted to pay some or all of a child support debt if other collection avenues have been unsuccessful. | Tax refund intercept activity collected $116.4 million in 2012–13, compared with $110.5 million in 2011–12. |
| Enforcement of tax return lodgement | Customers may be referred to the ATO for investigation of non-lodgement of tax returns or attempts to avoid obligations by under-declaring incomes. | Under a new memorandum of understanding made with the ATO effective from 2012–13, the department revised the performance measures of the Lodgement Enforcement program to focus on the number of income tax periods finalised rather than the number of finalised non-lodgers. For 2012–13 the ATO was given a target of 105,000 income tax periods to finalise—against which it achieved 132,047 income tax periods finalised.  67,569 of these were the result of tax return lodgement; the remainder were finalised through ATO Default Assessments or Return Not Necessary determinations.  A total of 36,653 referred customers finalised all their outstanding tax obligations in 2012–13, compared with 45,411 in 2011–12. |
| Prohibition of departure from Australia | Departure Prohibition Orders preventing overseas travel are issued to customers who have not made satisfactory arrangements to clear substantial debts. | Departure Prohibition Orders collected $6.7 million in 2012–13, compared with $4.2 million in 2011–12. |
| Litigation | The department targets parents who repeatedly avoid paying their child support when other enforcement options have been unsuccessful and an assets or income stream is identified. | Litigation activity reduced debt by $4.1 million in 2012–13, compared with $7.4 million in 2011–12. |