

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Department of Social Services 2014-15 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements

Senator: Wong

Question reference number: F85

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Did the Department's guidelines for the 2014-15 Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements require agencies include 2013-14 actual figures? That is, a comparative figure of the prior year?
2. Is the Department aware that the Department of Social Services did not provide any program information for the 2013-14 financial year? If not, why not?
3. Can the Department advise when the actuals for the special appropriations would have been finalised?
4. Did Finance approve the Department of Social Services not providing this information for 2013-14?
5. Did Finance approve this presentation of appropriation for the Department of Social Services? If not, can the Department explain what advice it provided to the Department of Social Services in relation to that?

Answer:

1. Refer to the response to question F51 from the 2014-15 Additional Estimates hearings.
2. 4 and 5. Refer to the response to question F52 from the 2014-15 Additional Estimates hearings.
3. Actuals for special appropriations were finalised once the Australian National Audit Office provided its audit opinion to the Department of Social Services (DSS) on 29 August 2014 and the accountable authority signed off on the annual financial statements on the same date. The annual financial statements, which were part of DSS's annual report, were tabled in parliament on 27 October 2014.