

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014 - 2015

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: 1/1.1
Topic: Counter-terrorism funding

Senator: Wong
Question reference number: F86
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. With reference to the graph that was published on page 9 of the Review of Australia's Counter Terrorism Machinery that reports on counter terrorism funding since 2001-02. The graph indicates that the Department of Finance provided that information, can the Department confirm that it compiled this graph? If not, can the Department advise who compiled the graph?
2. Can the Department please provide an itemised account of this graph – the program by program funding, and the agency that contributes to the funding profile over each financial year?
3. Can the Department define what is a “dedicated counter terrorism measure”? Does that exclude measures that were for counter terrorism and other purposes?
4. Did Finance provide costings for the efficiency dividend options that are on page 42 of the Review of Australia's Counter Terrorism Machinery? If not, who compiled the information?

Answer:

1. The Review of Australia's Counter Terrorism Machinery prepared the graph (Chart 6) on page 9. The Department of Finance (Finance) provided the data that was used to compile the graph.
2. The data provided by Finance related only to specific agencies, being Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), Office of National Assessments (ONA), Office of the Inspector-General for Intelligence and Security (OIGIS), Department of Defence (Defence), Attorney-General's Department (AGD), Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (Customs), Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), Australian Federal Police (AFP), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) and Department of Industry and Science (DIS).

The data was drawn from a compilation of Measures extracted from Budget Paper No. 2 and MYEFO publications since 2001-02. These Measures are all publicly available. The data was collated in late 2014 and is an update of an initial extraction of counter-terrorism Measures undertaken in 2009-10.

3. The Measures included in the data assembled by Finance were those that were predominantly counter-terrorism Measures. For both the 2009-10 data and the more recent update, the exercise of judgment on the part of Finance was required. The principles that guided the initial task in 2009-10 were also applied to the update prepared in 2014. For example, Measures that were primarily directed at counter-terrorism were included as were other individual Measures that formed part of a broader counter-terrorism package. Major Defence operations were excluded.
4. No. The information was compiled by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.