

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2015-16**

Finance Portfolio  
9 February 2016

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** Mantach fraud

**Senator:** Bilyk

**Question reference number:** F49

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 1 April 2016

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

I refer to the \$1.5 million fraud perpetrated by former Director of the Tasmanian and Victorian Divisions of the Liberal Party, Damien Mantach. It was reported that the Victorian Division of the Liberal Party has been forced to repay almost \$200,000 to State and Federal Governments over wrongly-claimed parliamentary printing and communications entitlements, arising from this fraud.

Has Victorian Liberal Party President Michael Kroger or any other Victorian Liberal apparatchik repaid any of the funds that the Liberal Party defrauded from the taxpayer?

If yes:

1. How much did the Liberal Party repay?
2. How was that figure arrived at?
3. Is the Department satisfied that all amounts the Liberal Party defrauded from the Commonwealth taxpayer have been repaid?
4. Did the Liberal Party offer to repay its debt with interest, to ensure the taxpayer isn't out of pocket?

If no:

1. Why hasn't the Liberal Party repaid this money?
2. What correspondence has the Department had with the Liberal Party about this debt?
3. Has the Liberal Party made any further offers to repay its debt to the Commonwealth?
4. Has the Department taken any legal advice or obtained advice from forensic accountants and the like about the Liberal Party fraud?
5. If so, who was engaged? How much did this cost? Can Contract Notice numbers for Austender for all relevant contracts please be provided?
6. Has the Department considered taking legal action against the Liberal Party to recover this outstanding debt?

**Answer:**

The Victorian Division of the Liberal Party offered to repay \$20,590.68 relating to the alleged fraud. The Department considers that it would be inappropriate to accept the payment until the calculation for arriving at the amount has been verified. The Department will take further steps to verify the calculation once the matter is no longer the subject of criminal court proceedings.