

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

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: All
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Reviews

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F38

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 2014

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in May 2014:

1. How many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
 - a) The date they were ordered.
 - b) The date they commenced.
 - c) The Minister responsible.
 - d) The department responsible.
 - e) The nature of the review.
 - f) Their terms of reference.
 - g) The scope of the review.
 - h) Who is conducting the review?
 - i) The number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review.
 - j) The expected report date.
 - k) The budgeted, projected or expected costs.
 - l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public.
2. For any review commenced or ordered Since Budget Estimates in May 2014, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
 - a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names.
 - b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent.
 - c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item.
 - d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement.
 - e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
 - f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them.
 - g) If yes, for each, who selected them.
 - h) If yes, for each, did the Minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them.

- i) If yes, please detail what involvement it was.
 - ii) If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list.
 - iii) If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur.
 - iv) If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department.
 - v) If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur.
3. Which reviews are on-going?
 - a) Please list them.
 - b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
 4. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
 5. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.
 6. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
 7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
 8. What reviews are planned?
 - a) When will each planned review be commenced?
 - b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
 - c) When will government respond to each review?
 - d) Will the government release each review? If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer:

Department/ Agency	Response
Finance	<p>1. Review of Australian Government Charging.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 7 May 2014. b) 10 September 2014. c) The Minister for Finance. d) The Department of Finance. e) To examine Australian Government charging arrangements. f) The review will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a framework of charging principles that should apply to Australian General Government Sector (GGS)¹ charging (where principles, other than those already established for cost recovery, might apply); • subject to data availability, assess the current extent of charging by Commonwealth entities and assess, in broad terms, any existing gaps against the principles of charging; • identify options, where appropriate, charging across the Australian GGS; and • make recommendations, as appropriate, regarding NTR data in order to improve transparency and decision making. g) The review will only consider the application of charging for activities of Commonwealth entities in the Australian General Government Sector. The review will not consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inter- and intra-government charges • charging arrangements of Commonwealth companies;

¹ All non-corporate Commonwealth entities and selected corporate Commonwealth entities and Commonwealth companies are part of the General Government Sector. Public non financial corporations (Trading) and Public financial corporations are outside the General Government Sector.

Department/ Agency	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investments, interest, dividends and debt charges; • industry contributions and grants; and • charging arrangements involving contractual penalties and settlements. <p>h) The Department of Finance.</p> <p>i) Two full time equivalent staff, Executive Level 2 and Executive Level 1.</p> <p>j) March 2015.</p> <p>k) Funded from within existing resources.</p> <p>l) No.</p> <p>2. Yes.</p> <p>a) Geoff Carmody of GF and VY Carmody Pty Ltd, trading as Geoff Carmody and Associates.</p> <p>b) N/A.</p> <p>c) Yes, \$45,000 (incl GST).</p> <p>d) External peer reviewer.</p> <p>e) No.</p> <p>f) General discussions.</p> <p>g) The Finance Secretary.</p> <p>h) Yes:</p> <p>i) The Minister considered models of engagement for an external reviewer.</p> <p>ii) Yes, the Minister was provided a short.</p> <p>iii) July to September 2014.</p> <p>iv) Yes.</p> <p>v) July to September 2014.</p> <p>3. N/A.</p> <p>a) N/A.</p> <p>b) \$20,418.75 (incl GST).</p> <p>4. N/A.</p> <p>5. The Cost Recovery Review.</p> <p>6. The Cost Recovery Review reported to government on 1 July 2014.</p> <p>7. The Government agreed on 1 July 2014 to the revised cost recovery framework, as the outcome of the Cost Recovery Review.</p> <p>8. N/A.</p>
Australian Electoral Commission	<p>1. Nil.</p> <p>2. – 8 N/A.</p>
ComSuper	<p>1. Nil</p> <p>2. – 8. N/A.</p>
Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation	<p>1. Nil.</p> <p>2. – 8 N/A.</p>
Future Fund Management Agency	<p>1. Nil.</p> <p>2. – 8. N/A.</p>