

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
2006-07 Additional Budget Estimates Hearing  
15 & 16 February 2007

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

**TOPIC:** *COMET program – Allegations of Fraud*

**REFERENCE:** Hansard 16/2/07, Page E37-E38

**QUESTION No.** AI-37

(Hansard 16/2/07, Page E37-E38)

**Senator CARR asked:**—So the process is that if a client of AusIndustry or of the COMET program has a concern about improper activities by a business adviser, they have an opportunity to make their concerns known to the department?

**Mr Peel**—That is correct.

**Senator CARR**—And those concerns will be investigated?

**Mr Peel**—That is correct.

**Senator CARR**—Is that the process?

**Mr Peel**—That is entirely correct.

**Senator CARR**—Given that fraud is a difficult issue to prove, have you had any matters that you have taken beyond merely inquiry or investigation?

**Mr Peel**—We have some matters that are in the hands of the police.

**Senator CARR**—How many matters are currently in the hands of the police?

**Mr Peel**—I would have to take that on notice.

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**Senator CARR**—Have you got an indication of the size of the moneys involved in such matters before the police?

**Mr Peel**—I would have to take that on notice.

## **ANSWER**

**Q . Senator CARR**—Given that fraud is a difficult issue to prove, have you had any matters that you have taken beyond merely inquiry or investigation?

A. One COMET matter has progressed beyond inquiry and has involved the Australian Federal Police.

**Q. Senator CARR**—How many matters are currently in the hands of the police?

A. One COMET matter.

**Q. Senator CARR**—Have you got an indication of the size of the moneys involved in such matters before the police?

A. The value of the COMET matter is \$60,000.