

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 25-26 February 2009

Question: aet 12

Topic: Evidence Based Policy

Hansard Page: Written

Senator EGGLESTON asked:

It was reported that during a speech to the Australian and New Zealand School of Government, Gary Banks raised some concerns that the Government's attempted use of evidence based policy.

1. It would seem that the efficiency cuts made within the public sector to reduce government spending and consequently economic activity have led to job losses meaning that there is less capacity for departments to carry out the research needed for quality evidence based policy. Is this a fair observation?
2. What is the flow through effect does this have on the quality of policy?
3. Mr Banks' comments regarding the use of consultants raise the issue of costs, quality, and accountability, could you expand on this and discuss the dangers involved with the current government's use of consultants to formulate policy?
4. Has the Government responded to Mr Banks' comments?

Answer:

- 1-3. The Chairman of the Productivity Commission has no comments beyond those that were contained in the published speech.
4. No.