

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 25-26 February 2009

Question: aet 21

Topic: ACCC – Record Keeping

Hansard Page: Written

Senator ABETZ asked:

1. Does the ACCC meet the records keeping standards promulgated by the Australian archives? Does the ACCC retain ownership of records held externally by subcontracted companies such as Auscript? Does the ACCC require subcontracted companies such as Auscript to retain records of interviews, both hard copies and voice recordings for the periods of time required of Commonwealth agencies?
2. Does the ACCC and its contracted service providers such as Auscript maintain records of all document disposals? In light of the ACCC's desire to expand criminal penalties what steps will be taken to raise the standards of record keeping including the disposal of records within the ACCC?

Answer:

1. Yes, the ACCC does meet the record keeping standards promulgated by the Australian archives. ACCC ownership of records held externally by independent service provider companies varies according to the circumstances.

Where Auscript is contracted to record and provide transcripts and/or voice recordings of ACCC examinations and interviews, Auscript provides the relevant material to the ACCC. The ACCC does not usually require Auscript to retain copies of material requested by and provided to the ACCC.

2. The ACCC maintains records of documents disposals in accordance with its record keeping procedures. Criminal standard evidence handling procedures will be used in relation to criminal cartel investigations.