

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates – 25–26 February 2009

Question: aet 85

Topic: Horticulture Code

Hansard Page: E25 (26 February 2009)

Senator BOSWELL asked:

Senator BOSWELL—My questions are on the horticultural code. Do we have the right person there?

Mr Cassidy—Yes; Mr Ridgway is just shuffling up to the table.

Senator BOSWELL—How much has the ACCC spent on information and education activities?

Mr Ridgway—I am sure we have a figure on the actual dollars spent, but we have undertaken quite a number of activities in relation to promotion.

Mr Cassidy—If we take that on notice, we can give you a figure, but please be a bit more precise about timing, or do you want to go back to since it came in?

Senator BOSWELL—Okay, so you will take that on notice?

Mr Cassidy—Yes, but the time frame: do you want to go back the past few years?

Senator BOSWELL—Let us go back to when we started this?

Mr Cassidy—Okay.

Senator BOSWELL—Do you want to enhance that answer?

Mr Ridgway—Indeed, I am looking at notes here. The work we have done, as well as working through the usual media releases and getting information into the mainstream media, we have also established a fairly extensive subscription service for a number of the growers and other traders in the horticulture supply chain to be alerted to developments on horticulture code related issues. We have been working fairly closely with grower organisations and industry associations around the country to ensure that clear information on the code is getting through to them and to their members.

Senator BOSWELL—How much has the ACCC spent on compliance activities?

Mr Ridgway—Again, we will take that question on notice, if that is okay?

Senator BOSWELL—Okay.

Answer:

The ACCC has spent \$425,502.32 on compliance activities specifically related to the Horticulture Code. These activities included production of industry guidelines, education for growers, and investigation of alleged wrong conduct as well as litigation.