

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates – 25–26 February 2009

Question: aet 91

Topic: GroceryChoice & a Non-Government Organisation

Hansard Page: E36 (26 February 2009)

Senator BRANDIS asked:

Senator BRANDIS—More than half of the \$3.64 million was the capital cost of getting this going. The \$1.5 million for the development, and presumably some of those other figures you have quoted about salaries and so on, were in relation to the development as well. Is it an unusual thing, after so much public money has been spent by a Commonwealth agency to develop the intellectual property and web presence of GROCERYchoice, that that would be just given away to a non-government organisation? Have you ever heard of that happening?

Mr Cassidy—I cannot say that I can recall another instance. On the other hand, I am probably not in a terribly good position for running my eye across the Commonwealth public sector and making that sort of judgment.

Senator Sherry—I will take that on notice and see if there is another instance.

Senator BRANDIS—Thanks, Senator Sherry.

Answer:

The ACCC is not aware of an instance where this has occurred. This question is an issue of policy and hence is a matter for the Treasury.