

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

10 – 11 February 2010

Question: aet 125

Topic: ESA Account

Hansard Page: E123-E124 (11/02/2010)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

Senator BUSHBY—We will move into failed prosecutions and proceedings. You mentioned the ESA account. How much is in that?

Mr D'Aloisio—The ESA account is \$30 million a year.

Senator BUSHBY—And, over time, that may build up? It is a cumulative account?

Mr D'Aloisio—The ESA account receives an annual appropriation of \$30 million of the funds. In order to utilise that account, the first one and a half million dollars of a matter needs to be borne in our normal appropriation. Then, as chairman, I have the authority to draw the ESA by sending a letter to the minister. If the draw is more than \$20 million, then the minister has to approve that draw. You are able to carry forward that \$30 million, so you can use what is not used over a period. At the end of the 2008-09 period, I think we had drawn \$24 million. I can get you the numbers.

Senator BUSHBY—You had withdrawn \$24 million. What was the balance?

Mr D'Aloisio—The balance would be whatever was able to be carried forward and also the difference with the \$30 million.

Senator BUSHBY—If it has been getting \$30 million a year for a number of years, it may have hundreds of millions of dollars in it, depending on how regularly you access it. Maybe if you could take on notice to provide advice on how much has gone in over recent years and how much has come out.

Mr D'Aloisio—Yes. I may give it to you again in confidence or to the committee. I will just check the confidentiality issue.

CHAIR—Sorry, Mr D'Aloisio, but in response to estimates you cannot give information in confidence. It needs to be all on the public record. So please bear that in mind.

Senator BUSHBY—I do not need the details of the cases, just the quantum.

Mr D'Aloisio—Okay. We can do that.

Answer:

Please find a high level reconciliation (without details of each case) of the ESA Account since it was established on 1 July 2006 at Attachment A.

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ATTACHMENT A

ESA movement schedule		\$'000	
Opening balance 01/07/06		30,000	
<i>less</i> drawn down for the year		16,137	
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Balance available as at 30 June 2007		13,863	
<i>add</i> appropriation for 2007-08		30,000	
<i>add</i> costs recovered		171	
<i>less</i> drawn down for 2007-08 year		17,228	
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Balance available as at 30 June 2008		26,806	
<i>add</i> appropriation for 2008-09		30,000	
<i>less</i> drawn down for 2008-09 year		23,894	
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Balance available as at 30 June 2008-09		32,912	
<i>add</i> appropriations for 2009-10		30,000	
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Opening balance 01/07/09		62,912	
<i>less</i> drawn down YTD Feb 2010		8,808	} 62,465
<i>less</i> drawn down March 2010		27,857	
<i>less</i> estimated drawn down to June 2010		25,800	
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Estimated balance available as at 30 June 2010		447	