

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

Question No: AET 131

Topic: SBT 65

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Senator Bushby asked:

Senator BUSHBY—I want to go through some answers to questions on notice that you provided. Just

looking at one question, SBT 65, about the enforcement special account, you listed the amount paid out of the ESA over the last four years. It will go from \$16 million to \$23 million to \$23 million to \$57 million in the 2009-10 year. That is a big jump. Obviously there is a lot of activity in terms of how much you are spending on enforcement. Also, you noted that you had \$17.7 million in the ESA as at 31 October. Can you give me an

update on where it currently stands and maybe a short explanation of why it has gone up so much? E 20 Senate Thursday, 24 February 2011

ECONOMICS

Mr D'Aloisio—There are a couple of things. Certainly, there are major matters and where they have

reached court some of them have gone up. There is also in that \$57 million the \$13½ million we paid in costs

in OneTel. So the increase is relevant to activity, relevant to GFC, relevant to the collapses—major matters. As

at the end of January or the end of December or January, it would probably have been standing at about \$20

million, I think, in terms of—

Senator BUSHBY—How much have you expended?

Mr D'Aloisio—what we will have spent in this year's allocation.

Senator BUSHBY—What is the balance?

Mr D'Aloisio—The balance gets to 30 each year; that is the balance.

Senator BUSHBY—So that is the balance of what you would expend.

Mr D'Aloisio—And, clearly, you look at that as you run your matters. As for the reason that it jumped to

\$57 million, it is \$30 million a year but you can bring forward what you do not spend in one year to the next.

Senator BUSHBY—Do you need to pool the whole amount that you have not spent?

Mr D'Aloisio—You can bring that forward. If you average that out, you are not exceeding the \$30 million.

Senator BUSHBY—Has it been \$30 million every year from 2006-07?

Mr D'Aloisio—My understanding is yes. Since I have been chairman, it has been \$30 million.

Senator BUSHBY—So, effectively, \$120 million has gone into the ESA over that four-year period—\$150

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million including this year—and you are down to about \$10 million left out of that.

Mr D’Aloisio—Yes.

Senator BUSHBY—If you can give me the updated figures, it would be appreciated.

Mr D’Aloisio—Sure.

Senator BUSHBY—Also, in SBT 151, I asked questions about the hospitality spend. You indicated that

you were not able to provide a break-up of your hospitality spend. When I ask other agencies, they are able to

provide that, and I would like to request that you look at your record keeping to see whether it is possible to do

that in future.

Mr D’Aloisio—Is there an agency that we can follow—

Senator BUSHBY—I have copies of it and—

Mr D’Aloisio—I am all for transparency, so it is not an issue in giving you the—

Senator BUSHBY—We ask others and they can tell us how much they have spent—for example, how

much a Takeovers Panel dinner cost. Those are the sorts of things we would get from others. It would be very

useful for transparency. Similarly, at SBT 146, I asked about consultancies. Your answer referred me to the

AusTender website. Other agencies actually give me the list. I went to the tenders website and had a look, and

it is a quite complicated procedure to work out the answers that I want, which I imagine you probably have at

your—

Mr D’Aloisio—I apologise. We will get you that information.

Answer:

As at 28 February 2011, ESA YTD actual spend was \$21.3m, leaving a remaining balance of \$8.7m.