

## **Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

### **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 1269

Topic: Length of time for the draft bill to the Not-for-Profit Reform Council

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Senator Siewert asked:

You said you took the draft bill to the Not-for-Profit Reform Council. How long did they have time to consider it?

Mr Jacobs: We talked them through major parts of it. I would not say we gave them enough time to really give them a detailed consultation period.

Senator Siewert: When you say you talked them through it, do you mean that, in other words, they did not see it?

Mr Jacobs: No, they got to see the draft legislation.

Senator Siewert: How long did they get to consider it?

Mr Jacobs: I might have to take that on notice, to get the exact time. But it was not a long time.

Answer:

The Not-For-Profit Sector Reform Council was given the exposure draft of the ACNC Bill on 30 November 2011. Treasury held a teleconference to discuss the exposure draft and fact sheets on 2 December 2011. Treasury was also happy to accept comments prior to public release of the exposure draft.

The exposure draft was open to public consultation from 9 December 2011 to 27 January 2012.

In order to have the ACNC in place and up and running by 1 July 2012, legislation for the ACNC needed to be introduced into Parliament in the first quarter of 2012. This meant that the Government needed to consult on the exposure draft legislation and explanatory materials for the ACNC in December 2011 and early January 2012, to allow time to take account of any comments from the sector, prior to introduction into the Parliament.

To address concerns related to the tight timeframes, Treasury released a number of fact sheets and engaged in open discussion forums on 14 December 2011 in Melbourne and 15 December 2011 in Canberra with various members of the NFP sector to ensure the fullest engagement possible.

Given the difficulties associated with the consultation timing, the sector was advised in advance of commencement of each level of consultation in the Treasury Not-for-profit Reform Newsletter.

The Government announced on 1 March 2012 that it was extending the start date of the ACNC from 1 July 2012 to 1 October 2012, to allow time for further targeted consultation to take place. The former Assistant Treasurer's joint media release No. 011 of 2012 provides more details.