

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 1499

Topic: Root and Branch Review of Competition Policy

Written: 6 March 2014

Senator WHISH-WILSON asked:

1499. In relation to the Government's commitment to a root and branch review of competition policy:

- a. How many officers from Treasury are working on the review and what are their classification levels?
- b. Have officers been seconded from other areas of Government? If so from which Government Departments and Agencies and what classification level are these staff?
- c. Have the terms of reference been finalised? If so what are they?
- d. Has the reference panel been appointed? If so who are the members of the panel?
- e. If so did which Minister/s signed off on the reference panel?
- f. What is the daily remuneration for members of the reference panel?
- g. How was the remuneration for panel members decided?
- a. How many days are they expected to work over the 2013-14 financial year?
- b. How many days are they expected to work over the 2014-15 financial?
- h. What is the travel budget for the reference panel?
- i. Are members of the panel permitted to fly business class? If so are they permitted to fly business class between Canberra and Sydney?
- j. What is the budget of the secretariat for travel?
- k. What is the budget of the secretariat for external consultancies?
- l. Has a website for the review been established?
- m. When is the review due to report to Government?

Answer:

Question a.

- There are nine Treasury officers (one SES Band 2, two SES Band 1, two Executive Level 2, two Executive Level 1, one APS 6 and one APS 5).

Question b.

- One Associate Secretary from the NSW Department of Treasury and Finance;
- one officer from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (APS 6);

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

- two officers from the ACCC (Executive Level 2);
- one officer from the Department of Industry (Executive Level 2); and
- one officer from the Productivity Commission (Executive Level 2 – yet to commence).

Question c.

The Terms of Reference were released on 27 March 2014. A copy of the terms of reference is available at: <http://competitionpolicyreview.gov.au/terms-of-reference/>.

Questions d. & e.

The panel, as announced by the Minister for Small Business, is Professor Ian Harper (Chair), Ms Su McCluskey, Mr Michael O'Bryan SC and Mr Peter Anderson.

Questions f. & g. (a/b)

The Chair of the panel will be paid a daily sitting fee of \$1,500 and the panel members a \$1,000 daily sitting fee.

Question h.

Funding of \$2.5 million for the review was included in the 2013-2014 Mid-year Economic and Fiscal Outlook – \$1 million in 2013-14 and \$1.4 million in 2014-15.

Question i.

Panel members travel at the rates applicable for SES officers. They travel economy class between Sydney and Canberra.

Question j. & k.

See the response to h.

Question l.

A website for the review is at www.competitionpolicyreview.gov.au.

Question m.

The Terms of Reference ask the Review Panel to provide a final report to the Government within 12 months.