

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**  
Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

**Question: Bud 62**

**Topic: Work and Family Taskforce – Options Considered**  
**Hansard Page: E67**

Senator Collins asked:

Were Treasury officials involved in meetings with other departments that discussed the design of the increase in the rates of family tax benefit A of \$600 per child to be paid as a lump sum upon reconciliation of entitlement?

...

These were not options being considered, at least to Treasury's knowledge, before then?

**Mr Tune**—You asked about the work and family task force before. Some of those options had been considered along with many other options in the context of the work and family task force. That task force has not met during the course of 2004 so there was a discrete break in the process.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS**—But earlier than that, this was one of the options that they were contemplating?

**Mr Tune**—I think it was. I cannot recall specifically.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS**—Could you check for me?

**Mr Tune**—I cannot confirm or deny what was in a document that went to cabinet.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS**—No, but you can check your recollection of evidence that you have put before this committee. You said that you did not recall and I am asking whether you can clarify your recollection for us.

**Mr Tune**—Yes, I can do that. Whether I can then pass that information on, I think is a matter that I need to consider. If it is going to material that was then put before the government as a confidential matter I would not be able to divulge that.

**CHAIR**—Take that question on notice and if, having refreshed your memory, you consider that you should take that objection, then you can take that objection in your written response.

**Mr Tune**—Certainly.

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Answer:

Yes. Treasury officials were involved in meetings with other departments to discuss the design of the increase in the rates of Family Tax Benefit Part A of \$600 per child. The \$600 per child increase in the rates of Family Tax Benefit Part A was not considered by the Work and Family Taskforce.