

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

Question: Bud 46

Topic: Forward Estimates for Baby Bonus

Hansard Page: E81

Senator Collins asked:

Going back in time to the baby bonus, on 19 February 2004 Senator Mackay asked whether the estimates for the baby bonus had been revised for the 2004-05 and the 2005-06 financial years, to which the now absent Mr Smith replied:

I think the revisions would have been provided in the additional estimates if there were any, but I know there are not any there.

Exactly how does that reconcile with the Treasurer's release very shortly thereafter on 31 March 2004 of the forward estimates for the baby bonus stretching all the way out to 2007-08?

Mr Tilley—I will have to check. I do not know the answer to that. The measure was recosted at some point. Obviously, the Treasurer made that information available. I am not sure exactly how that happened, but we can check.

Answer:

Forward Estimates are reviewed in the Budget and MYEFO processes. The Treasurer's release on 31 March 2004 simply set out the Forward Estimates for the Baby Bonus revised at the 2003-04 MYEFO.

Mr Smith and Treasury staff were not aware that Baby Bonus expenses were included in the Treasury Portfolio 2003-04 Additional Estimates as part of Refunds of Receipts (Individuals), rather than being shown separately as previously.