

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

**Question: Bud 47**

**Topic: Updates to Forward Estimates for Baby Bonus**

**Hansard Page: E81**

Senator Collins asked:

You are aware that Labor announced its baby care payment policy, complete with offsetting savings, on 31 March 2004.

**Mr Tilley**—Yes, I am aware of that.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS**—Are you aware that one of those savings was abolishing the baby bonus.

**Mr Tilley**—Yes.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS**—Is it normal for Treasury to provide daily updates to the Treasurer on the forward estimates of programs?

**Mr Tilley**—No. I am not saying that we did that on that occasion.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS**—No, I did not ask that question. Is it normal for Treasury to provide weekly or monthly updates on the forward estimates for programs?

**Mr Tilley**—We provide revisions to the budget forecasts on a regular, basically quarterly, basis; but we do specific costings at different times, depending on what we are requested to do and depending on particular circumstances, including things that are announced.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS**—When were you requested to provide the update on that occasion?

**Mr Tilley**—I cannot recall when we were requested. Obviously, we provided that advice to the Treasurer at that time. I am not sure about when the costing was done.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS**—Can you take on notice when that request was made?

**Mr Tilley**—Yes.

Answer:

The Treasury responded to a request for baby bonus forward estimates on 31 March 2004 and provided the Baby Bonus Forward Estimates that were revised at the 2003-04 MYEFO.