

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

Question: Bud 63

Topic: Financial System Inquiry – Positive Credit Reporting

Hansard Page: Written Question on Notice

Senator Conroy asked:

1. What action has the government taken in relation to recommendation 99 of the Financial System Inquiry in relation to positive credit reporting?

Answer:

The Financial System Inquiry, released in 1997, recommended that a working party be established, comprising of representatives from consumer groups, privacy advocates, the financial services industry and credit reference associations, to review the existing credit provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988*. The recommendation did not impose a time-frame for the completion of the review.

In early 1998, the Government decided to defer work on positive credit reporting pending econometric analysis on the subject by the Australian Finance Conference (AFC), the national finance industry association. It was considered imperative to gather industry and market data before an informed decision could be made. The AFC intends to finalise its analysis and send its report to the Government and other interested parties by July 2004.