

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

**Question: Bud 26**

**Topic: Consumer Safety – Staff Numbers & Levels**

**Hansard Page: E99**

Senator Kirk asked:

Could you could provide the committee with information on staff numbers and levels for the period of 1996 through to 2004.

**Ms Vroombout**—We do not have those numbers to hand, but we can take the question on notice and provide them to you. The point I would make, though, is that the consumer safety issues span a number of units within the Treasury, not just the consumer safety unit. We also have a consumer information unit, and there is a lot of interplay between those two units. Where we have consumer education campaigns on safety issues, they get run through the consumer information unit. We also have a unit that deals with policy issues associated with consumer safety issues. So just looking at that one unit does not provide a full picture of resources devoted to those sorts of issues.

Answer:

From March 1996 to October 1998, consumer product safety related functions were part of the then Department of Industry, Science and Tourism. Treasury is unable to provide relevant staff numbers for that period.

Consumer product safety related functions have been attached to a number of Divisions in Treasury since October 1998. The functions span a number of Units. Estimates staff numbers are as follows:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Average Staffing Level (rounded)</b>
1998-99	8
1999-00	8
2000-01	9
2001-02	9
2002-03	9
2003-04	9

Information on the levels of staff over time is unavailable.