

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 31 May to 2 June 2005

Question: Bud 71

Topic: ACCC – Consumer Consultative Committee

Hansard Page: E118

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—That is fine, Chair. Can you take on notice to provide the committee with the agenda documents, minutes of these meetings and any campaign material that you have produced since its inception.

Mr Antich—I do not know how much of that we are able to give you.

Senator LUNDY—I suspect all of it, given you are a publicly funded agency through the budget. Has the ACCC received any complaints about telemarketers?

Mr Cassidy—Just to clarify what Mr Antich was saying, we will not be giving you information in relation to individual complaints even though we are budget funded. We are not going to reveal that sort of information.

Senator LUNDY—I did not ask for the individual complaints. I asked for the agenda items and records of meeting.

Mr Cassidy—Just to be clear, Mr Antich was saying that we will give you what we can but there will be certain information we cannot give you.

Answer:

The taskforce meetings regarding the campaign to protect disadvantaged and vulnerable consumers are informal internal ACCC meetings. A majority of items discussed at the taskforce meetings are done by way of oral update. Other agenda items contain individual complaints or investigation information and as such are not provided in response to the question.

Further information can be obtained from the ACCC website, www.acc.gov.au, including:

- original and revised ACCC referral guide
- ACCC press release (MR 109/03) “*Network steps up protection of 'at risk' consumers*” announcing the launch the campaign on 2 June 2003.
- speech by Professor Allan Fels, 2 June 2003.
- taskforce roles and responsibilities
- Referee Contact Protocol