

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates, 31 May to 2 June 2005

**Question: Bud 67**

**Topic: ACCC – Rise in Cost for the Average Consumer & Small Business**

**Hansard Page: E101**

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—Just pursuing this point about the rise in cost for the average consumer and small business and so forth, can you remind the committee what your report found last year in terms of price rises and the continuing trend that you have just referred to?

Mr Cosgrave—I am not sure I can point you to exact numbers tonight. But, as I say, it is a continuation of a trend that was observed last year that indicated that reductions, where they occurred, were occurring unevenly between residential and small business and what is styled as other business in the report.

Senator LUNDY—Could you take on notice to match the figures referred to in this press release with any percentages that were identified in last year's report?

Mr Cosgrave—Certainly. We are happy to take that on notice. I think it is done in the report itself.

Answer:

The question seeks 2002-03 data that is the equivalent to the 2003-04 price change data quoted in ACCC News Release, *ACCC Issues Annual Assessment of Telecommunications Competition*, 31 May 2005.

Equivalent data for 2002-03 is available in tables published in the ACCC publication, *Changes in Prices Paid for Telecommunications Services in Australia – 2003-04*, 31 May 2005.