

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 74

Topic: Increase in State Distributions

Hansard Page: E31

Senator McDonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—...Also, relative to the questions that Senator Webber and Senator Eggleston were asking, but in the broader sense, could you perhaps give me the response to my earlier question about the states expecting they would get huge increases from a Labor government but finding now that their increases in Commonwealth to state transfers are remarkably less than they were over the last four or five years—and, might I say, it serves them right.

CHAIR—Was that a question?

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Yes, it was.

Senator Sherry—That was not a question for officers. It is—

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Well—

Senator Sherry—Let me finish. It is not a question; it is a series of assertions and political claims that is not appropriate for the officers. But I will take it on notice for Mr Swan to respond to.

Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am asking the officers—they have agreed to do this before; I was just summarising—to calculate the increases in the outcomes, compare it with the increases in the last four or five years, and can they confirm or otherwise that the increases, which have been substantial in the last four or five years, to the states are now running back to one per cent or less than inflation even?

Senator Sherry—We will take it on notice.

Answer:

The answer is the same as for Question No. 72.