

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 2 June – 4 June 2009

Question: bet 7

Topic: Nation Building & Jobs Stimulus Package – Cash Payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bob Brown asked:

1. Is the government planning to carry out an audit of the cash payments made under the Nation Building and Jobs Stimulus package?

Answer:

The Government is not planning a specific audit of the payments delivered under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan, however, there are processes in place to monitor these payments.

The Nation Building and Jobs Plan consisted of five cash payments – the Tax Bonus, Single Income Family Bonus, Farmers' Hardship Payment, Back to School Bonus and Training and Learning Bonus. The Australian Tax Office (ATO) has responsibility for delivering the Tax Bonus, while Centrelink has responsibility for delivering the remaining payments.

The ATO has advised that the tax bonuses paid under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan adhered to the ATO Corporate Governance and Assurance framework including the comprehensive project management protocols.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Education, Employment and Work Place Relations have advised that they are provided with regular reports from Centrelink, by which they are able to monitor the payments made as part of the Package. Additionally, the Government has received and responded to feedback from numerous members of the public, and representations from parliamentarians on behalf of constituents, about the stimulus payments.