

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 2 June – 4 June 2009

Question: bet 77

Topic: Arrangements for Private Health Insurance Rebate

Hansard Page: E79

Senator Cormann asked:

Senator CORMANN—You picked me up on the fact that my question related to means testing the rebate, so I have rephrased my question now. When did you first provide advice on possible changes to the private health insurance rebate arrangements in the context of this budget line?

Mr Ray—I suspect that our first advice on this would have been oral, so it is always hard to answer those questions, but I am happy to take it on notice.

Senator CORMANN—Was it towards the end of 2008? Was it early 2009?

Mr Ray—I suspect it was early 2009. It was probably February 2009, but I would like to take it on notice and see what I can provide.

Answer:

The Department of the Treasury first provided written advice on possible changes to the Private Health Insurance Rebate on 20 February 2009 in the context of the 2009-10 Budget.