

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TREASURY

Australian Taxation Office

Supplementary Budget Estimates 3 November 2005

Outcome

Topic: ICT PROJECTS ABANDONED

SBT 101 Written Question on Notice: Supp Conroy 3

Senator Conroy asked:

Please provide details of any ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months that have materially failed to satisfy project specifications.

Please provide details of any ICT projects that were abandoned by the Department/organisation within the last 12 months before the delivery of all project specifications outlined at the time the project was commissioned.

For such abandoned projects, please provide details of:

- (i) Any contractual remedies sought by the Department as a result of the abandonment of these projects.
- (ii) Any costs of re-tendering the ICT project

Answer:

No ICT projects delivered in the past 12 months have materially failed to satisfy project specifications or been abandoned.

The scope of information technology (IT) development projects is negotiated with business during the project initiation phase and may change as a result; however, this is not regarded as a failure to adhere to specifications; it is more an integral part of the process of developing the project. Functionality can be delivered in a multi-phased release strategy. Change control mechanisms are adhered to during the development phase. Changes to scope do occur and are managed appropriately and in accordance with ATO change management principles. This may result in a level of re-planning, the full business impact of any changes are clearly articulated and understood during re-planning.