

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates, 2 November to 3 November 2005

**Question: SBT 39**

**Topic: APRA – Selected Statistics on the General Insurance Industry**

**Hansard Page: Written**

Senator Webber asked:

I would like to know in relation to the “Selected statistics on the general insurance industry” and its proposed replacement “Half yearly general insurance bulletin” when the statistics for the two years from 1 July 2002 through to 30 June 2004 will be published?

Answer:

APRA’s focus to date has been on the reproduction of the previous *Selected Statistics* data for the current period as this was considered to be of most use to industry. The release of data for the periods ending June 2004 and December 2004, however, will be considered based on the feedback that APRA receives. It should be noted that the *Quarterly General Insurance Performance Statistics* do provide data from the quarterly returns back to September 2003.

The *Half-Yearly General Insurance Bulletin* is comprised of data provided on audited annual returns. Each publication therefore will be a mixture of data for the 12 months to June (for general insurers with a balance date in the first half of the year) and 12 months to December (for those with a balance date in the second half).

The new prudential reporting regime for general insurance came into effect from 1 July 2002. Data collected during the first 12 months of the new regime are distorted, due to the one-off effect of the introduction of premium liabilities and the exclusion of unearned premium and deferred acquisition costs.

APRA’s stance on data disclosure is that it must pass strict controls in relation to its veracity before release. If APRA is not confident that its data are of the highest quality, then they will not be released. As a result, APRA is not able to release data for the first 12 months of the new regime as it is felt that they are subject to a number of transitional and data quality issues that are likely to preclude them from publication.