

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates 1 - 2 November 2006

Question: sbt 117 (ACCC)

Topic: Consumer Benefits

Hansard Page: Written

Senator CONROY asked:

- 1. Does the ACCC believe that there is any overlap between the reporting requirements of Division 12 and the Consumer Benefits Analysis Report prepared by ACMA under section 105 of the Telco Act?**
- 2. How long have these reports been prepared by the ACCC and ACMA?**
- 3. In this time, what actions have the ACCC taken to minimise duplicative information requests and reporting requirements created by this overlap?**

Answer:

1. A review of data reporting by ACMA and ACCC staff has found that, to a limited degree, there is duplication of data collected for the ACCC's Division 12 and retail price control reporting and ACMA's customer service guarantee standard.

The reports are produced pursuant to s105 of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and the s151CM(1)(a) of Division 12 of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* respectively.

2. The Division 12 reporting requirements came into effect in 1999. The first Division 12 report was produced by the ACCC for the 1998-1999 financial year.

The 2004/5 section 105 Report was presented to the Minister as an ACMA Report on 17 November 2005 because ACA had ceased to exist. Prior to 1997-8 Austel produced broadly similar reports on Competitive Safeguards and Carrier performance under s 399 of the 1991 Act.

3. The ACCC and ACMA have reviewed their respective data collection activities to identify duplicative data requests on reporting parties. This process has identified that areas where duplication has been occurring is relatively limited – specifically the monitoring of subscriber numbers and services in operation. This data is sought to inform the ACCC's Division 12 and retail price control reporting and ACMA's customer service guarantee standard.

The ACCC has agreed with ACMA that there would be benefit in the two agencies communicating their data collection plans and coordinating with each other where possible.