

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Estimates 22-23 October 2008

**Question: sbt 47**

**Topic: Unlimited Guarantee – Reserve Bank Advice**

**Hansard Page: E19**

**Senator COONAN asked:**

Senator COONAN —Is it fair to say that there is actually nothing in writing from the Reserve Bank recommending to the government that there be an unlimited guarantee in the bank package?

Senator Conroy —I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure that Dr Henry would necessarily have seen all letters between the Reserve Bank and the government. He may have.

Dr Henry —I would have to take that on notice, Senator. I am not sure.

Senator COONAN —You have not seen anything, have you?

Dr Henry —I am not sure about that. I may well have.

Senator COONAN —So there might be something in writing from the Reserve Bank expressly recommending the bank package with the unlimited guarantee; is that right?

Dr Henry —There may be; I am not saying that there is. I would need to take that question on notice and check our records. If by written material you include, these days, printouts of emails, then I am sorry, but I cannot retain in my head the details of all email correspondence between the Reserve Bank and the Treasury on this matter over that week or so.

Senator ABETZ —You did not bring them with you?

Dr Henry —No, I did not.

Senator COONAN —Can I put it this way: is there any written material at all in which the Governor of the Reserve Bank expresses concerns about the package?

Senator Conroy —I am not sure that Dr Henry is in a position that he can—

Senator COONAN —I am talking about anything with him. He knows if he has got emails, Senator Conroy. We do check our emails. I am just interested to know, in this melee of communication between you and the Reserve Bank, Dr Henry, if there is any written evidence from the governor in which he indicates unreserved support and recommendation for this package?

Dr Henry —I have already taken that question on notice, I think. I am happy to come back to the committee—

**Answer:**

We are unable to provide a response to this question, as it goes to the nature of policy deliberations of Government.