

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 – 21 October 2010

Question: SBT 234

Topic: Economic Stimulus Package

Senator Bushby asked:

Senator BUSHBY—In September last year Treasury advised the Senate inquiry into the economic stimulus package that, over the course of 2010-11 and 2011-12, \$31 billion in stimulus money was still to be spent. In light of further delays in spending stimulus, such as in the case of Victoria where just 40 per cent of its \$2.5 billion school stimulus package has been spent, can you please now outline how much of the stimulus package is yet to be spent in 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13?

Senator Wong—Did you say \$31 billion?

Senator BUSHBY—Yes, \$31 billion was the figure we pulled out.

Senator Wong—You pulled out?

Senator BUSHBY—I did not pull it out personally.

Senator Wong—I do not think that is the figure that the government has advised in other estimates hearings.

Mr Ray—If we are talking about the payments that are made through the states—

Senator BUSHBY—I was talking about the total stimulus money.

Mr Ray—I do not have that with me. I have only got what has been paid through the states, which is 78 per cent of it. I am happy to take it on notice.

Senator BUSHBY—In doing so could you also provide a breakdown of the composition of such spending, transfers, investments, COAG reforms et cetera?

Mr Ray—When you say ‘transfers’ you do not mean transfer payments in the normal sense; you mean transfers to the states?

Senator BUSHBY—Yes, transfers to the states. Basically, I would like as much detail as you can provide as to how it will be spent.

Senator Wong—The figure to the states is the \$23 billion that Mr Ray outlined. So when you say ‘transfer payments’—

Senator BUSHBY—I did not say ‘transfer payments’; Mr Ray clarified that for me. Have you managed to clarify whether the \$31 billion figure I mentioned was correct?

Senator Wong—No.

Senator BUSHBY—I will proceed on the basis that—

Senator Wong—I have a recollection—and I do not have the details in front of me—of the government indicating \$23 billion. There was an additional amount over and above that which related, from memory, to COAG reform packages and the pension increase, but I do not recall the figure being \$31 billion.

Senator BUSHBY—As I said, I did not pull that out myself. I have had staff assist me with that.

Mr Ray—Why don’t we take on notice that we will check what it was 12 months ago and what it is today?

Answer:

The Treasury submission to the Senate Economics References Committee Inquiry of 2 October 2009 is published at <https://senate.aph.gov.au/submissions/comittees/viewdocument.aspx?id=b7b56b21-9714-4465-beda-8e97fe303b1a>.