

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 - 20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 16

Topic: Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission – Role in Policy Development

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

16. What role, if any, will the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission have in whole of government policy development for the charities and not-for-profit sector?

Answer:

The role of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) will be to regulate and administer laws relating to the not-for-profit (NFP) sector.

This role will include responsibility for determining the legal status of groups seeking charitable, public benevolent institution, and other NFP benefits on behalf of all Commonwealth agencies. The role will also initially include responsibility for providing education and support to the sector and implementing a 'report-once, use-often' general reporting framework for charities.

The Government and the Commonwealth Treasury will remain responsible for policy and legislation with respect to regulation and taxation of the NFP sector. The ACNC will provide advice to Treasury on regulatory issues as part of its regulatory and administrative roles.

The Government will continue to consult the sector on issues affecting not-for-profits, including through bodies such as the Not-for-profit Sector Reform Council.