

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 – 20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 835

Topic: Proportion of online purchasing

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Senator Cormann asked:

Senator CORMANN: What is the timetable in terms of getting some reporting on the proportion of online purchasing?

Mr Ewing: From the HES?

Senator CORMANN: Yes.

Mr Ewing: I think the publication of that information will probably be when it is processed. I suspect we will have to look into the resources we need to complete that processing.

Senator CORMANN: Are you doing it within existing resources, or are you being given extra resources for this?

Mr Ewing: We have not any extra resources for that. It would involve some extra processing of the HES data to extract that information.

Senator CORMANN: Have you quantified the cost that is associated with implementing these recommendations?

Mr Pink: We would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The estimated cost to implement the Productivity Commission's draft recommendations about the ABS monitoring of online retailing is \$800,000 per annum.