

Additional Estimates 2002-03
Questions on Notice Index
Finance and Administration Portfolio

| QoN No. | Agency/Program | Senator | Hansd pg | QUESTION | Comments |
|---------|----------------|---------|----------|--|--------------|
| F1 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 121 | We will come back to all of the components of that commercial transaction, but at least we have identified where the money came from. Could you indicate where the transfer of assets is recorded in the budget papers for 1997-98? You can take that on notice. | Ans. 1/5/03 |
| F2 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 121 | It should be page 44—sorry about that: ‘derivative investments as trading portfolios and positions and notes all such positions are revalued on a daily basis to reflect market movements’. Can you just explain what that means? | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F3 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 133 | Senator CONROY —The core bank account has \$1.5 billion, but the consolidated statement has \$2.2 billion. That is about a \$700 million difference. I was just wondering whether the library is running a derivatives portfolio on the side. Mr McPhee —I just use those as illustrations. There would be many other bodies within the general government sector as well. Senator CONROY —Is it possible to get a copy of those? | Ans. 21/5/03 |
| F4 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 136 | Are you able to provide a reconciliation between the CRF and its components and the budget balance between 1998-99 and 2001-02? | Ans. 21/5/03 |
| F5 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 137 | Why does the minister say in the consolidated financial statements that \$41.3 billion of debt has been repaid when in the final budget outcome press release he says that \$60.7 billion of debt has been repaid? You signed both of them, Minister. | Ans. 13/5/03 |
| F6 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 138 | So why is it that, if the government has raised \$58 billion from asset sales and has \$10 billion on deposit, leaving \$48 billion, it only paid down \$37 billion of liabilities over the corresponding time period? Where is the other \$11 billion? I have not noticed an asset purchase program of around \$11 billion. | Ans. 13/5/03 |
| F7 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 140 | (a) Telstra is not in either ‘Investments—accounted for using the equity method’ or ‘Investments—other’? While you are all hunting for Telstra, there are three columns on those tables: general government, public trading enterprises and public financial enterprises. Could I get a breakdown for all of those? (b) Yes. And the corresponding table for 1996. | Ans.1/5/03 |
| F8 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 140 | You can cross off the ones that are not relevant. I would like to ask about the corresponding table, which I just mentioned, for the consolidated financial statements for 1996 on page 23, which I think you have. Investments in 1996 totalled \$72 billion. What were those investments? | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F9 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 140 | By 2002, total investments, equity methods plus other halved to \$37 billion. What was the reason for the decline in investments? | Ans. 15/4/03 |

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| F10 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 147 | <p>Senator CONROY—Do they include the UBS Warburg contract? Mr Staun—No. Senator CONROY—Is it available?</p> | Ans.14/4/03 |
| F11 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 152 | <p>Minister, I am wondering whether you can explain why infrastructure spending seemed to fall by \$1.17 billion or about 90 per cent between 1996 and 2002. I appreciate that one of them is an intention and one was a figure. Presumably, that means it was—</p> | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F12 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 153 | <p>I will take your word for it. We agree on the figure, if not the page. I now refer to the corresponding table in the consolidated financial statements, 1996, page 25—again, I may have you at a disadvantage. This shows that operational leases by the general government were \$2.779 billion in 1996. I am wondering, Minister, whether you can explain the rationale behind operating lease commitments increasing by \$4.7 billion or 270 per cent between 1996 and 2002?</p> | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F13 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 154-55 | <p>I note that DOFA has provided information on which program expenditure has been rephased. I would like to ask you about the approval process for rephasing. Your answer to a question on notice states: Finance has no authority to approve requests to rephase expenditure programmes. When was DOFA's authority to approve requests to rephase revoked?</p> | Ans. 26/5/03 |
| F14 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 156 | <p>Senator CONROY—The more the merrier. On page 9, the document states: Trust money held by the Commonwealth is 'special public money' for the purposes of the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 ... Special public money is defined in section 16(4) of the FMA Act as public money that is not held on account of the Commonwealth or for the use or benefit of the Commonwealth. The report goes on to say: The Commonwealth reported almost \$500 million as being held in trust as at 30 June 2001. Could you explain why the consolidated financial statements show \$170 million being held in trust by the Commonwealth on 30 June 2001 while the Auditor-General showed that almost \$500 million was being held in trust on the same date? Mr Hutson—As I understand it broadly, the distinction between the items referred to in the Auditor-General's report and note 41 is that note 41 is not FMA Act agencies and the Auditor-General's report refers to FMA Act agencies. Senator CONROY—Could you explain where the other \$330 million not included in the table on page 1.7 is in the report?</p> | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F15 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 159 | <p>I have made reference to the Prime Minister's press conference on 10 January. That is all I am asking about. I accept Senator Minchin's definition of first instruction, but when did DOFA begin their own preparations or when were they approached by another department or agency and became involved in preparing costings? What was the date?</p> | Ans.1/5/03 |

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| F16 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 160-61 | (a) What is the financial cost of the predeployment? (b) You have already made this point, but I want to make sure I have got it right in my head: can you confirm that Defence will not be able to absorb the costs of these new deployments out of the existing Defence budget? I think you said earlier that they would be able to. | Ans.1/5/03 |
| F17 | DOFA Output 2 | Conroy | 166 | "Budget Paper No.2 for 1996-97 through to Budget Paper No.2 for 2002-03 contain forward estimates for measures announced in each budget. Could you please confirm (1) whether each measure is continuing and (2) what is the estimated cost of each measure in 2002-03?" | Revised qon IntAns. 15/4/03 |
| F18 | DOFA Output 3 | Ray | 192 | (a) Minister, we were discussing under PM&C Senator Conroy's arrangements and we now have the officials here. I am not going to go broadly on this, but I am correct, am I not, that it was the department that informed Senator Conroy that they did not want to pay the rent any longer on his office at 90 Collins Street? (b) Okay. While you are making those inquiries, would you find out whether it was strongly suggested to Senator Conroy that the attic at 4 Treasury Place would be a far better prospect for the Commonwealth than his renting elsewhere? | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F19 | DOFA Output 3 | Faulkner | 193-94 | Of course this could have come either from DOFA or from his home department. I accept that. I wondered if you were able to assist me on this, Dr Watt. Knowing how you like to chase down every last red cent in the Department of Finance and Administration, I knew you would be the man to know if \$130 went haywire in the post, courtesy of Mr Tuckey's office practices. [re: Mr Tuckey and lost post item] | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F20 | DOFA Output 3 | McLucas | 194-96 | (a) What was the total cost of the helicopter charter? (b) Who was on the helicopter at various times during the event? (c) Where did it go? (please provide a copy of the travel itinerary) | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F21 | DOFA Output 3 | Faulkner | 198 | So if you want to get one you can, and if you decide not to get one, for whatever reason, so be it. Could you take on notice to find out how many members and senators have that car or have ordered that car. I do not want to know the names, just the numbers. [re: Holden Commodore S s/c] | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F22 | DOFA Output 3 | Faulkner | 199 | Senator FAULKNER— Yes, but I am talking about it going to your portfolio minister, not to all cabinet and non-cabinet ministers. I am asking if consolidated information is provided to either the portfolio minister or the Special Minister of State on usage of printing allowance historically. Ms Mason— We do not produce regular reports of that nature. Senator FAULKNER— You haven't produced those reports? Ms Mason— I think that is a different question. We have from time to time produced reports but it is certainly not something that we do on a regular basis. Senator FAULKNER— So it has been done irregularly? Ms Mason— Yes. Senator FAULKNER— Can you say when it has been done over the last two or three years? | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F23 | DOFA Output 3 | Ray | 201 | How soon after the department sent the minister's office the list of printing allowance expenditures did the material appear in the press? | Ans. 15/4/03 |

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| F24 | DOFA Output 3 | Ray | 201 | Let us put that down as a possibility. Having established those three possibilities, is there anyone else, any other department or section, who would have had access to this information? [re: Horne printing entitlement – “leak”] | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F25 | DOFA Output 3 | Faulkner | 202 | Was a tabulation ever done and provided to the minister on the basis of expenditure in calendar year 2001? I do not doubt it may have been done to develop a response to the FOI, I do not know. [re: printing entitlements] | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F26 | DOFA Output 3 | Faulkner | 204 | Senator FAULKNER —When did that occur? Senator Abetz —I do not know. Senator FAULKNER —Could you find out? Senator Abetz —I can find out, yes. Senator FAULKNER —Thank you. Can you tell me who provided it, please? Mr Gavin, can you assist us? | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F27 | DOFA Output 3 | Faulkner | 204 | Can we check that? Can we also check whether figures for the financial year 2000-01 were provided and whether in all cases this related just to those MPs who had a high expenditure on printing allowance or whether it related to all MPs, as in the case of the advice provided to Senator Abetz in relation to calendar year 2001? | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F28 | DOFA Output 3 | Faulkner | 204 | Senator FAULKNER —Seeing that you have made the point about Mr Horne and the fact that he did not expend any moneys after the election in 2001, which is obviously true, can I ask on notice—because this is why Senator Abetz thinks that Mr Horne was so far down the list— for a disaggregated figure for the expenditure of all of the 28 listed members of the House of Representatives; that is, both parties — Senator ROBERT RAY —You have that list. Senator Abetz —The list of 28, or whatever. Senator FAULKNER —Yes. Can I ask for the expenditure of all of those after the federal election? Of course, in the case of Mr Horne, we know that he lost his seat, so obviously it will be zero. I would like to compare the expenditure for the other 28 in that two months after the federal election. Ms Mason —We will do our best. I am not sure whether our figures can be narrowed down to a precise date, because they are normally compiled on a monthly basis. Senator FAULKNER —What I am interested in here is when this material was printed, not when it was paid for. | IntAns. 15/4/03 Ans. 26/5/03 |

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| F29 | DOFA Output 3 | Murray | 206 | <p>Senator MURRAY—Let me phrase the question to go on notice. I do not need the names. I just want to know how many have still not certified the 1999-2000 parliamentarians management reports—the year-end one.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—That is the end of financial year?</p> <p>Senator MURRAY—That is right. The same question for the financial year 2000-01, and again I do not need to know the names but the numbers of members and senators who are refusing to certify reports, as distinct from qualifying them to the best of their knowledge, which I think is what most people do. There was an intention by the department to benchmark entitlements expenditure, and in the DOFA review relative to that I was advised that Finance would be aiming to develop benchmarking options by 30 June 2002. I want to confirm that those benchmarking options have been developed and are in place.</p> | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F30 | DOFA | Mackay | n/a | Written question on notice attached relating to Whips office staffing. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F31 | DOFA | Stott Despoja | n/a | Written question on notice attached relating to maternity leave. | Ans. 21/5/03 |
| F32 | DOFA | Lundy | n/a | Written question on notice relating to IT outsourcing. | IntAns. 15/4/03 Ans. 21/5/03 Supp.ans. 26/5/03 |
| F33 | AEC | Lundy | n/a | Written question on notice relating to IT outsourcing. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F34 | CGC | Lundy | n/a | Written question on notice relating to IT outsourcing. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F35 | Comsuper | Lundy | n/a | Written question on notice relating to IT outsourcing. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F36 | CSS | Lundy | n/a | Written question on notice relating to IT outsourcing. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F37 | PSS | Lundy | n/a | Written question on notice relating to IT outsourcing. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F38 | AEC | Faulkner | n/a | Written question on notice relating to budget and restructure. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F39 | AEC | Faulkner | n/a | Written question on notice relating to Robert Dean's enrolment. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F40 | AEC | Faulkner | n/a | Written question on notice relating to redistributions. | Ans. 15/4/03 |
| F41 | AEC | Faulkner | n/a | Written question on notice relating to funding and disclosure. | Ans.1/5/03 |

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
(Senator Mackay)**

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

FEBRUARY 2003

AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

TOPIC: WHIPS OFFICE STAFFING

1. How many personal staff are employed by Government Whips and Government Deputy Whips in the Senate and the House of Representatives?
2. Please provide a breakdown of personal staff employed by Government Whips and Government Deputy Whips by:
 - Number of staff in each office;
 - Classification of each position by office;
 - Salary range of each position;
 - Names of the current incumbents by office and classification; and the
 - The nominated homes bases of each incumbent.

F31

Finance and Public Administration Committee

DOFA - Question on Notice – Senator Stott Despoja

Cross-portfolio

Topic: Devolution of maternity leave costs within the Department.

The DOFA structure has organisational units at various levels including divisions and sections.

- a) Do the organisational units in DOFA have their own internal budgets?
- b) Does this include staffing budgets?
- c) If yes, how are the costs of maternity leave handled in the Department?
Is it;
 - (i) a central cost, or
 - (ii) does each organisational unit cover their own maternity leave costs in their own budgets?
- d) If maternity leave is a devolved cost can you please identify all of the organisational units which are required to handle maternity leave?
- e) If maternity leave is a devolved cost, can you provide analysis (actual, FTE and percent) of staffing numbers per organisational unit by:
 - (i) gender, and
 - (ii) provide number (actual, FTE and percent) of women under 45 per organisational unit.



Senator Kate Lundy
Senator for the Australian Capital Territory
Shadow Minister for Information Technology and Sport

Senate Estimates – Questions On Notice

IT Outsourcing

Provide the following information for each contract entered into by the agency which has not been fully performed or which has been entered into during the previous 12 months (financial year 2001-2002) that are all or in part information and communications technology related with a consideration to the value of \$20, 000 or more, including the following details for each contract:

- (a) a unique identifier for the contract (eg contract number);
- (b) the contractor name and ABN or ACN;
- (c) the domicile (country) of the parent company;
- (d) the subject matter of the contract, including whether the contract is substantially hardware, software, services or a mixture, with estimated percentages;
- (e) the starting date of the contract;
- (f) the term (duration) of the contract, expressed as an ending date;
- (g) the amount of the consideration (AU\$);
- (h) the amount applicable to the current budget year (AU\$);
- (i) whether or not there is an industry development requirement; if so:
provide details of the Industry Development requirements (in scope and out of scope). full list of sub-contracts valued at over \$5,000, including the all the information described in (a) to (h).

The data should be in both hard copy and electronically as a spreadsheet.

Senator Faulkner to ask the Special Minister of State:

Australian Electoral Commission

F38

1. Budget and restructure

- (a) How many DRO positions are currently vacant or have people acting in the position of DRO? Please provide full details.
- (b) How many DRO positions does the AEC expect will become vacant over the next 12 months because of retirement? Please provide full details.
- (c) How many Divisional offices do the AEC currently have, broken down into stand-alone offices and joint offices? Currently, how many of the joint offices are co-located (working from same office, but separately) and how many are amalgamated (integrated functions)? Please provide details of the relevant Divisions and where the office is situated.
- (d) Does the AEC have a timetable for the proposed amalgamation / co-location of Divisional offices? Please provide full details of any strategic plans.
- (e) What is the maximum number of Divisions the AEC proposes be amalgamated or co-located in any one place?
- (f) What staffing structure does the AEC propose to use for offices covering 2, 3, 4 or 5 Divisions?
- (g) Given DRO's are currently at the level of APS6, how will the AEC ensure there are enough qualified people to run future Federal elections? Does the AEC plan to use lower level staff to act as DRO's or, alternatively to use a higher-level person as DRO for more than one electorate?
- (h) Given the requirements of Section 32 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, has the AEC obtained legal advice on whether a person can act as DRO for more than one Division? If so, please provide a copy of that advice.

F39

2. Robert Dean's enrolment

What stage is the AEC's investigation of Robert Dean's enrolment up to? Has the matter been referred to the AFP?

F40

3. Redistribution

Noting the redistribution for Victoria was gazetted on 29 January 2003, when will the AEC be providing MP's with roll data and other information for their newly shaped electorates?

4. Funding and disclosure

(a) Noting that

- The “debt” owed by the Liberal Party to the Greenfields Foundation was \$4.35m in 99/00, \$4.25m in 00/01 and is now \$4.15m in 2001/02;
- There is no interest being charged on the “debt” owed by the Liberal Party;
- The rate of interest for loans of this kind is currently about 7%;
- In law, interest on a debt becomes part of the debt; and
- Under section 287 of the Act, the release or forfeiture of any debt is considered a “disposition of property” and thus a “gift”,

What steps is the AEC taking to ensure the Liberal Party discloses the gift of over \$300,000 it receives each year from the Greenfields Foundation in the form of interest foregone?

(b) How did the AEC satisfy itself that the money owed by the Liberal Party to the Greenfields Foundation was actually a “debt”?

(c) Noting

- Ron Walker’s comments to the ABC current affairs program AM on 18 November 2002 that "I haven't given any personal money at all. I didn't give very much of my personal money to the Liberal Party either."
- On 18 November 2002, AAP reported “The millionaire businessman [Ron Walker] said he had not given any money to the Conservative campaign [in Britain] or the Liberals in Australia,” and
- That the AEC’s investigation into the Greenfields Foundation was satisfied by Ron Walker’s assurance that he had personally provided the \$4.75m to cover the Liberal Party “debt”;

Has the AEC contacted Ron Walker, the Greenfields Foundation and the Liberal Party to ensure their disclosure obligations in relation to the Greenfields Foundation/Liberal Party “debt” are being met?

On what basis was the AEC satisfied that Ron Walker had personally provided the \$4.75m to cover the Liberal Party “debt”? Did Ron Walker, the Greenfields Foundation or the Liberal Party provide any documentary evidence to show the “debt” actually existed? Please provide details.