

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 2002-2003, 10-11 February 2003

Question: PM 24

Outcome 1, Output 4.2

Topic: Centenary Medal

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Senator Faulkner asked: What were the enhancements to the AWNS database and what did they achieve?

Answer: Enhancements have been made to reflect changes to the Centenary Medal arrangements, to enable the Centenary Medal Secretariat to process medals productively without increasing manpower resources and to speed up the operating system. These enhancements included:

- provision of letters from the Official Secretary to the Governor-General to awardees which accompany each medal. When a number of states indicated that they would not proceed with affirmation ceremonies these letters were amended to remove reference to ceremonies. The order in which letters were generated by the system was also altered at Government House's request to assist it in speeding up the placement of letters with the relevant medals;
- provision of additional reports to assist the Council for the Centenary Medal to evaluate nominations;
- increased options for scheduling medals, in particular to enable awards to be scheduled by federal electorate. This followed the decision to invite federal members in states which had declined to hold affirmation ceremonies to opt to present medals to awardees in their electorates. Software changes were also needed to address situations where postcodes cross electorate boundaries to enable the correct medals to be sent to those members electing to hold ceremonies.