

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 36

Outcome 1, Output 4.3

Topic: Mr Steve Irwin's fee for the Quarantine Matters! advertising campaign

Hansard Page: F&PA 172

Senator Faulkner asked asked: Why was Mr Irwin's fee subject-or supposedly subject- to a confidentiality agreement?

Answer: Based on advice from AQIS, Mr Williams advised the Committee that the fee paid to Mr Irwin was subject to a confidentiality agreement. Further advice from AQIS has been received subsequent to the hearing. That advice indicates an amount of \$175,000 was paid to the Steve Irwin Wildlife Fund, a charitable Environmental Public Fund that has been entered onto Environment Australia's Register of Environmental Organisations, in lieu of a fee to Mr Irwin by the creative agency in accordance with the contract between AQIS and the agency. There are no confidentiality requirements in this contract but there were confidentiality requirements in the contract between the agency and Mr Irwin. AQIS has further advised Mr Irwin's management has no objection to the amount of the payment being disclosed.

Question: PM 37

Outcome 1, Output 4.3

Topic: Quarantine Matters! advertising campaign.

Hansard Page: F&PA 171 & 173

Senator Faulkner asked: Are you able to inform us what component of this campaign was Mr Irwin's fee, if there was a fee?

Answer: There was no fee paid to Mr Irwin. An amount of \$175,000 was paid to the Steve Irwin Wildlife Fund, a charitable Environmental Public Fund that has been entered onto Environment Australia's Register of Environmental Organisations. Funds deposited into the Public Fund must only be used for strict environmental purposes. Mr Irwin's management has advised that the funds paid will be used towards the purchase of conservation land as a wildlife refuge for threatened and endangered species and will, in particular, form part of an increasing habitat haven that Mr Irwin is currently developing as a wildlife nature reserve in Western Queensland.