

Estimates 2004-05 — Additional Estimates, February 2005

Questions on Notice Index—Finance and Administration portfolio

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question (use the bookmarks to go directly to the question text)	Comments
F1	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 6, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—I am not going to disagree. Could you provide me, on notice, with a list of your staffing levels to 30 June 2004 going back to 1996. I do not need the numbers now.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I am sure we could, but one point to remember is that Finance in 1996 was an entirely different organisation.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I certainly understand that.</p> <p>Dr Watt—When you look at Finance now, about half the department is the old Department of Administrative Services. Despite the fact that that department was split across a number of areas and DAS businesses were effectively sold off, about half our staff—maybe even a few more—would have actually been in DAS jobs.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Yes. You might footnote that for accuracy purposes.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We can do that.</p>	Answer received 7/4/05
F2	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 10, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Could you take on notice to release the new figures?</p> <p>Mr McPhee—Which particular figures?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—The new figures that were based on the closure of the DB fund on 1 July 2005 which has just been discussed.</p> <p>Mr McPhee—As Ms Doran said, the budget estimates already factor that in. Are you asking for the components of the figure?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Yes.</p> <p>Mr McPhee—We can certainly take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 23/5/05
F3	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 18, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Where is that recorded in the budget papers?</p> <p>Mr McPhee—It is a financing transaction. We would need to provide you with the details, but it did not hit the bottom line per se.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Even though it is a cash payment?</p> <p>Mr McPhee—Yes. It depends how the transaction is classified, and it was classified as a financing transaction, and they do come in below the cash budget bottom line.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I think primarily it is a financing transaction. The other thing is that, of course, it happened after the last budget.</p> <p>Mr McPhee—Dr Watt is correct. I think there was some above the</p>	Answer received 23/5/05

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				line impact. Dr Watt—Small impact. Mr McPhee—But, in relative terms, it was not that significant. We can provide the details for you.	
F4	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 19, 15/2/05	Senator SHERRY—You have gone to the next issue I was going to raise—the quarterly payments each year to both Telstra and Australia Post. What were the approximate figures for those? Ms Doran—I am afraid I do not have that at hand at the moment, but I can certainly find that out for you.	Answer received 23/5/05
F5	DoFA	Murray	F&PA 25, 15/2/05	Senator MURRAY—But you can see the point, can't you? A parliamentary committee is not competent to decide whether there is a case to answer when it comes to a civil or criminal matter and neither is the department. We have no-one to turn to. I guess what I want you to give some thought to is advising this committee—which I doubt you can do, given the nature of your answers so far—about what process, what means there is for referral of these matters or matters like these to decide whether there is a case to answer to be done and assessed. I cannot think of any authority or body. The DPP needs a file. He cannot do it out of his own motion. Dr Watt—We are happy to take it on notice and come back to you. Senator MURRAY—Thank you. That is all I have on that.	Answer received 23/5/05
F6	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 26-7, 15/2/05	Senator SHERRY—Thank you. Can Finance provide the committee with total appropriations for each year, from 1998-99 through to the year 2003-04, broken down into annual appropriations and standing appropriations? I assume you do not have that list here at the moment, but taking the question on notice is fine. Mr McPhee—That is a pretty long list. Certainly we do not have the list here. Do you just want the total dollar amounts or do you want the detail? Senator SHERRY—I want it broken down into annual appropriations and standing appropriations. I have some more detail on this, so let me conclude the questions. I want it to include but not be limited to special appropriations—section 20, special accounts; section 31, net appropriations; and section 30A, GST appropriations. Mr McPhee—Do you need those in categories or individually? Senator SHERRY—Individually. Dr Watt—Do you mean listing those four categories individually?	Answer received 23/5/05

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				<p>Senator SHERRY—Yes. Dr Watt—I figure that we currently need about six numbers per year. Is that right? Senator SHERRY—Yes. Mr McPhee—We will see what we can do. I am conscious, for instance, that even in the Audit report it talked about 414 special appropriations. There would be many annual appropriations. There would be many section 31 agreements. It is quite a significant compilation task. But we can take it on board and do the best we can. Senator SHERRY—Thank you. In each category of appropriation, is there a breakdown of the total amount drawn down—that is, what is actually spent? Mr McPhee—Yes, there would be. Senator SHERRY—Could you take that on notice. Are you aware of any money spent in excess of any appropriation other than those already reported by the Auditor-General so far? Mr McPhee—I am not aware of any. Senator SHERRY—Is the department aware of any? Mr McPhee—We can take that on notice. Senator SHERRY—Could I also have the breakdown of the amount, if any, still available to be drawn under any appropriation and what those appropriations are for. Mr McPhee—The second part suggests we need to get into quite a level of detail. If you are happy, I will take it on board to see whether we can aggregate it in presentation. What you are asking is the details of the unexpected balances of appropriations across the board, and that would be extremely time consuming to get. Senator SHERRY—Let us see how you go.</p>	
F7	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 27, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Have any appropriations lapsed? Mr McPhee—Under that mechanism? Senator SHERRY—Yes. Mr McPhee—I understand that one appropriation has been lapsed in that manner. Senator SHERRY—Do you have any more detail? Mr McPhee—We do not have the details here but I can provide them. Senator SHERRY—Could you also provide the detail of any others</p>	Answer received 23/5/05

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				you find. Mr McPhee—We will do a check for any others.	
F8	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 37, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Prior to the repeal of the Audit Act in 1997, what arrangements were in place to manage the investment of public funds? Was each entity responsible for their investments or was there a centralised investment and compliance function with the Department of Defence?</p> <p>Mr Hutson—I am informed that prior to the 1997 legislative amendments some agencies were investing under a delegation from the finance minister.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Less than—</p> <p>Mr Hutson—They were investing prior to 1997.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—But was the number less than now?</p> <p>Dr Watt—We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I would submit that less were doing it.</p> <p>Mr Hutson—Less than doing it now?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Hutson—That would probably be the case. We will take it on notice.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will take it on notice and check it. We cannot be sure.</p>	Answer received 23/5/05
F9	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 42, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—How much are you paying them?</p> <p>Mr Suur—I do not have that information with me. We are in the process of identifying a DSD endorsed IT security expert to play that role, so that is a tender process that is currently under way. I cannot answer that part of the question. In relation to ASIO, I probably could give you a figure.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—How much are you paying ASIO?</p> <p>Mr Suur—I do not have that figure with me. I can provide you with that later.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are happy to take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 23/5/05
F10	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 46, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Would you be able to provide the calculations to the committee, and are they available for 1997-98 and 1998-99?</p> <p>Mr McPhee—Can we take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Yes.</p>	Answer received 23/5/05
F11	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 47, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—They were printed on Monday. Why could they not be provided to the parliament earlier than Thursday?</p> <p>Mr Staun—I do not know the answer to that.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—There must be an answer.</p>	Answer received 7/4/05

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				<p>Mr Staun—I can find the answer. Dr Watt—We will find the answer. Senator SHERRY—They are printed and available on the Monday and they did not get up here until Thursday. Dr Watt—We will get you an answer. Senator SHERRY—Okay. Do you want to come back to that? Dr Watt—Yes, we will come back to it. Ms Hazell—The bills were not printed until 8 February and they were tabled on the 10th. The normal practice is that agency portfolio additional estimates statements are not tabled until after the bills are tabled. Senator SHERRY—Will I move on and come back? Dr Watt—We are seeking an answer. Mr McPhee—I think the generic answer is as Ms Hazell provided. That is consistent with past practice, the additional estimates documents are made available on the same day that the bills are introduced, and I think that is quite appropriate that they not be introduced— Senator SHERRY—Why were the bills printed at that period? It is very inconvenient for committees—and I am not just speaking for myself here—to receive these documents on a Thursday afternoon, I think it was, by the time we finally got them in our offices. Mr McPhee—All I can say is that we can take on board the issue you are raising. I do not know what the determinants were for the timetable for the introduction of the bills. Dr Watt—Why don't we take on board the issue about the introduction of the bills and whether there was anything in particular that drove the timing this time. We will take that on notice and as part of that we will also give you a response about the Finance portfolio additional estimates statements.</p>	
F12	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 50, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—The heading on page 2 of the document issued from the Department of Transport and Regional Services is 'Agreement between the Australian government and the government of Victoria relating to the implementation of the AusLink national land transport plan'. Was the department of finance consulted on the preparation of the document? Did it provide any comments to the department of transport? Dr Watt—I think we would have to take that on notice. We do not</p>	Answered F&PA 55-6

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				have that level of detail with us.	
F13	CSS/PSS	Sherry	F&PA 52, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—We had a discussion earlier this morning about an examination of the actuarial projections of the PSS longer-term liabilities given the closure of the DB and accumulation. Are you aware of that?</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—I am not. The issue of liability is not a board issue; it is a department issue. In other words, the actuaries report to the department on those issues, not to the board. The board does not commission the actuaries to do those sorts of liability calculations.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—But you are aware that that has been carried out. Have you been privy to it?</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—No.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I thought you would be. Can you make available the projections that you have done on the size of the fund?</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—Yes. It is done internally for our purposes, but I do not see any reason—</p>	Answer received 23/5/05
F14	CSS/PSS	Sherry	F&PA 53, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—I wonder if you could take this on notice: the quantum of funds under management each year for the last 10 years, year by year; and the rate of return for each of those years—not the declared rate of return, because I know you have that not declaring a negative, but just the rate of return on funds under management.</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—So you mean, rather than the rate we credit or exit, the actual earnings?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—The actual earnings.</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—The investment earnings?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Yes, for each of those years.</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—That is easily obtainable. For the last 10 years?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—For the last 10 years, yes. I was going to ask for the funds management cost for each of those years but you say that it does not vary much.</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—To the extent that I have it, I do not mind providing it.</p>	Answer received 23/5/05
F15	DoFA	Sherry	F&PA 56, 15/2/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—In clause 71 it states that both parties acknowledge that financial participation by the private sector may take a number of forms, including ownership, financing and operation of a project, operation of business concessions associated with a project or a</p>	Answer received 23/5/05

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				<p>financial contribution in recognition of special benefits flowing from a project. Are they all issues which Finance would have some experience with and knowledge of? Was Finance consulted on these?</p> <p>Ms Page—I am not aware whether Finance was consulted in the early development of the AusLink white paper. I think those aspects predate me.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I think we had better take that one on notice.</p>	
F16	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 57 & 62, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Not really, actually. Ms Mason, are there any statistics on the number of MOPS staff who received the 30 per cent severance loading after the recent election?</p> <p>Ms Mason—I do not have the numbers with me, but I am advised that we can get them quickly and will do so.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Mason—Mr Chairman, may I return to the first question that Senator Faulkner asked of me in relation to statistics on severance benefits paid to MOPS staff after the last election. Unfortunately, I had thought that the information could be provided quickly and I am informed that a number of reports will need to be generated from our payroll system and that it will not be available this afternoon. So I am afraid we will need to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—All right. Thank you. The severance loading is designed to apply only when an office holder loses their position, is not re-elected or does not contest, and so on. That is right, is it not?</p> <p>Ms Clarke—I can read out the certified agreement for you. It sets out when that severance benefit is payable. It says: Severance benefits payable under clause 59.2 will be increased by 30 per cent— I think that is the one you are getting at— if an Employee's MOP(S) Act employment terminates as a result of his/her employing Member ceasing to hold office (i.e. under subsections 16(1) or (2) or subsection 23(1) of the MOP(S) Act) and if the benefits are not treated as payments in respect of bona fide redundancies for the purpose of section 27F of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1936.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Does it apply to staff employed under both</p>	Answer received 17/5/05

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				<p>sections of the MOP(S) Act? Ms Clarke—Parts III and IV, yes. Sections 16(1) and 16(2) relate to staff of office holders, and section 23(1) that I referred to relates to the part V staff of senators and members. Senator FAULKNER—I will assist Ms Mason, given that you are only able to take this on notice. Can you limit that to staff under part III of the MOP(S) Act—that is, government and opposition ministerial staff, is it not? Ms Clarke—It is office holders, yes. Senator FAULKNER—Can you indicate the gross number who have received the severance loading and, if you would not mind, quantify whether it was government, opposition or other staff. That ought to save a bit of work. I would have thought, Ms Mason, that this is not a question on notice that will take a long time to answer.</p>	
F17	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 66, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I want to ask some questions about another matter. There are a couple of issues we have to revisit here, so I am very happy, Ms Mason or Mr Edge, for you just to interrupt me at the appropriate time when you feel we are able to revisit those issues. Does MAPS have any statistics about how many MOP staff have dropped in salary since 1996? Ms Mason—I am not aware that we have figures along those lines. It would be unusual for people to drop salary between those periods, except if they moved to a lower classification position. Senator FAULKNER—It would not be unusual in the case of some people who may, for example, have been ministerial staff in the life of the then Labor government and found themselves in a different situation post 1996. That is why I use that particular date. Ms Mason—I do not have those figures, no. That is not something that we have inquired into. As I said, it would be relatively unusual, without a change of role. Senator FAULKNER—Perhaps you might take that on notice for me. Ms Mason—Yes.</p>	Answer received 17/5/05
F18	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 66, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Are you able to inform the committee how many people requested that their previous salary be retained for superannuation purposes? Ms Mason—Not without taking it on notice. Senator FAULKNER—I would appreciate it if you could.</p>	Answer received 17/5/05

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QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question (use the bookmarks to go directly to the question text)	Comments
F19	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 68, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—What is that? What is the verification process?</p> <p>Mr Barnes—I could not identify the exact process. I am not intimately involved with that.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Do we know who does it?</p> <p>Mr Barnes—Yes, certainly. I can check on the details of the exact process, but I do not have the information available right now.</p>	Answer received 17/5/05
F20	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 68, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Since 1 July 2004, how many individuals have raised concerns with you? I just want a number.</p> <p>Mr Barnes—I do not have that information available, but I can ask for it.</p>	Answer received 17/5/05
F21	DoFA	Moore	F&PA 72, 15/2/05	<p>Senator MOORE—I will now move to more specific questions. You may have to take some of these on notice, because they are about staffing and so on. With reference to the incorporation of the Australian Government Information Management Office into the Department of Finance and Administration, can you explain what responsibilities, functions and staff have been transferred from DCITA as a result of this change?</p> <p>Dr Watt—All responsibilities, functions and staff that were particular to the Australian Government Information Management Office have been transferred. So it is lock, stock and barrel from that executive agency, not from elsewhere in the DCITA portfolio.</p> <p>Senator MOORE—Dr Watt, can we get exactly what staff and functions have come across?</p> <p>Dr Watt—I am sure we can.</p> <p>Senator MOORE—It would just be easier to pool that specific information.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Answered on F&PA 72
F22	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 79, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—You noticed that it was an area that could be improved. We do not know what those figures are. This is at the end of the parliament. Would you have had statistics available for September and October? From Mr Edge's previous evidence and yours, I would assume that there would be statistics available from 1 September and 1 October 2004. Would that be right?</p> <p>Ms Mason—Yes, that is correct.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Do you have them available now?</p>	Answer received 17/5/05

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				<p>Ms Mason—No, I do not. Senator FAULKNER—Could you take that on notice for me, please? Ms Mason—Yes.</p>	
F23	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 83, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Are there any others in the pipeline? Mr Edge—There is one that is not quite in the final stage or been given in principle approval in terms of identifying a location, but Senator Fifield has moved from an electorate office which is now occupied by the member for McMillan to the Melbourne CPO on a temporary basis. Senator FAULKNER—Fair enough. So Senator Fifield is another one that is close to in principle approval. Are there any others in the pipeline? Mr Edge—I would have to check on that. My figures are of the ones that were approved between 9 October and the beginning of this month. I would need to check on what is in the pipeline.</p>	Answer received 17/5/05
F24	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 83, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—What is the turnover rate annually or on the basis of a parliament? Is it more or less than 10 per cent every change of parliament? Mr Edge—I could not speculate on that without looking at the numbers. Senator FAULKNER—How many every year? Mr Edge—We could get that information together for you.</p>	Answer received 17/5/05
F25	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 84, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—If that is the case, can you provide on notice for the committee, please, the individual budgets for the 19 in principle approvals, <u>the two granted approvals</u> and the special case of Senator Fifield—and congratulations on that, Senator Fifield. Could you go to all the issues, please: rent, dead rent of all previous offices, furnishings, fit-out—all costs borne in relation to these offices? I will leave that there. Could you take that on notice? If you have the detail available, please provide it to the committee. I would think it would be unlikely. Mr Edge—It would be difficult to cost the in principles at this stage. Because they are in principles to look in a particular area, in most—if not all—cases there would not have been premises identified and therefore costings would not have been done. That is done at the final approval stage, when the case, the rent and all of the costs are</p>	Answer received 17/5/05 Combined with F26

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				identified. It would be difficult for us to cost the in principles until we have locations selected and leases negotiated.	
F26	DoFA	Faulkner	F&PA 85 & 86, 15/2/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Can we identify the number of offices where there is an ongoing lease which might lead to either a dead rent problem or a necessity or hope for subletting? In other words, can we identify where there is an ongoing lease issue? If we can get that information—</p> <p>Senator Abetz—That is better framed, yes.</p> <p>Ms Mason—We can get that information. We will need to do it on notice. Senator FAULKNER—Take my question on notice, please, Ms Mason, in relation to the identified offices.</p> <p>I have heard all the debate about the electorate of Wakefield but, from what I have heard, it appears certain that there will be a dead rent issue for the office in Elizabeth and there is only some doubt about the extent of the dead rent resulting from the Gawler office. Is that right? I just want to be clear on that one before we leave this issue.</p>	Answer received 17/5/05 Combined with F25
F27	DoFA	Brandis	F&PA 87, 15/2/05	<p>Senator BRANDIS—I have one question on the same topic which I am sure you would want to take on notice. It is a two-part question. What was the date on which approval in principle was given to the location of the new Bonner electorate office, and what was the date on which final approval was given for the location of the new Bonner electorate office?</p>	Answer received 17/5/05
F28	AEC	Brandis	F&PA 87, 15/2/05	<p>Senator BRANDIS—On what date was that letter sent, please?</p> <p>Ms Mitchell—I cannot remember the date.</p> <p>Senator BRANDIS—Can you take that on notice, please?</p> <p>Ms Mitchell—I can, yes.</p>	Answer received 7/4/05
F29	AEC	Brandis	F&PA 90, 15/2/05	<p>Senator BRANDIS—In your view, would it be a breach of the misleading and deceptive conduct provisions of the Commonwealth Electoral Act to represent ‘we don’t take money from developers’ if the political party making that representation deliberately and advertently created a structure so that moneys from developers intended for it were to be donated through a third party with an anodyne and environmentally sensitive name like the Rainforest Information Centre?</p> <p>Ms Mitchell—I do not think I can answer that question at this stage.</p>	Answer received 7/4/05

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				We would probably have to take legal advice on the issue. Senator BRANDIS—Would you look at that for me and take that advice please.	
F30	AEC	Murray	F&PA 92, 15/2/05	Senator MURRAY—Mr Becker, this issue has been raised, as you know, many times and was discussed at length in a report some years back. Have the penalties for multiple voting been raised? ... Mr Dacey—The current penalty—and I have to take on notice whether or not it has been raised and when—is 60 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months or both. One penalty unit is about \$110.	Answer received 7/4/05
F31	AEC	Carr	F&PA 94, 15/2/05	Senator CARR—On what date was it referred to the Federal Police? Mr Becker—December 2004? Mr Pickering—Yes, that is right. Mr Becker—December last year. Senator CARR—Can you give me a date in December? Mr Becker—I do not think I have the actual date. Mr Pickering—I just have December 2004. I can get you an actual date.	Answer received 7/4/05
F32	AEC	Carr	F&PA 101, 15/2/05	Senator CARR—Can you give me the enrolments of a particular subdivision? I just want to test something. Are you able to do that? Ms Davis—No, not at this time. Senator CARR—Are you able to do that on notice? Ms Davis—Yes. Senator Abetz—Subdivision or division? Senator CARR—Subdivision—East Arnhem Land. Can you do that? Mr Dacey—That would be a Northern Territory subdivision, not a federal subdivision. Senator CARR—Can I get the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders residing in East Arnhem Land subdivision enrolled to vote in the 2004 federal election? Mr Dacey—We do not collect race on our enrolment forms. So you cannot discriminate. Senator CARR—How do you know the effectiveness of any recruitment campaign or the level of informal voting?	Answer received 7/4/05

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				Ms Davis—With some of the initiatives we have been taking in the remoter areas, where we are actually working closely with the communities, we are able to take enrolments at the time. There have been some initiatives, for instance, in the Wadeye community in the north-west of the Northern Territory. The AEO in the Territory is at the moment undertaking an initiative in the area you were just referring to. Again, I will not be able to give you specific figures, but we can give you figures that are actually taken at the times we visit those communities. Senator CARR—All right. I will put the rest of it on notice. Thank you for that.	
F33	DoFA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 23/5/05
F34	AEC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 17/5/05
F35	ComSuper	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 23/5/05
F36	CSS / PSS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 23/5/05
F37	CGC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 23/5/05
F38	DoFA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 17/5/05
F39	DoFA	Murray	Written	Attached	Answer received 23/5/05
F40	DoFA	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 17/5/05
F41	Medibank	McLucas	Written	Attached	Transferred from the Community Affairs Committee 10/3/05. Answer received 23/5/05

Please note that answers are due on 1 April 2005

F33 to F37

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

Please provide a table listing details of all consultancies for the 2003/04 financial year, for the department and all associated agencies within the portfolio. Please include the following:

- The costs for all completed consultancies, both budgeted and actual;
 - The costs for ongoing consultancies, both budgeted and for the current financial year;
 - The total costs for all consultancies, both the amount expended in the current financial year, and the total budgeted value of all consultancies running in the current financial year;
 - The nature and purpose of the consultancy;
 - The method by which the contract was let;
 - The name and details of the company and/or individual who is carrying out, or carried out, the contract.
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F38

DOFA

OUTCOME 3: MOPS

1. What is the current establishment number of staff supporting Ministerial offices?
2. To which Minister or Parliamentary Secretary are they assigned?
3. What is the level of appointment of all such staff?
4. Can you provide a list showing levels of appointment?
5. How does the profile of staff appointments (that is number, level of appointment, total cost) compare with a similar profile from February 2004?
6. Can you provide a comparative table showing this information?
7. How many staff receive remuneration or other entitlements in excess of those prescribed by the current Certified Agreement?
8. Which staff are they?
9. What positions do they occupy and, which Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries do they work for?
10. In cases where ministerial staff receive a package exceeding that prescribed by the Certified Agreement, how many receive additional remuneration.
11. Up to what level are Ministerial staff paid. In other words, how much do the five highest paid Ministerial staff receive?
12. How many staff receive additional conditions or benefits?
13. What are these?
14. What is their estimated value?
15. How many staff in the Prime Minister's own office receive remuneration or conditions in excess of the Certified Agreement?
16. What is the total value of additional remuneration paid to staff in the Prime Minister's office?
17. What is the value of the total package negotiated with the prime Minister's Chief of Staff?
18. What about the Principal Private Secretary?
19. And the Press Secretary?
20. What are the other positions in the Prime Minister's office that are remunerated above the levels prescribed by the Certified Agreement?
21. What is the total cost of the additional remuneration and other conditions and benefits provided to staff in the Prime Minister's Office?
22. How many staff are currently seconded to Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries?

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23. What is the average length of secondment?
 24. What are the five longest secondment arrangements currently in place?
 25. Are there any such staff on secondment from the private sector?
 26. If so, do they receive their private sector package, or is remuneration determined by some other method?
 27. Please provide a table showing the number of such staff, the office to which they are seconded, the Department (or company) from which they are seconded and the financial arrangements covering their secondment?
 28. What is the total cost of maintenance for ministerial offices, both in Canberra and in other cities during the current financial year?
 29. What is the budgeted annual cost for this work for 2004/2005?
 30. How does this compare with the previous two financial years?
 31. Are all projects on budget and on time?
 32. Please provide a table showing all such projects, by Ministerial office, location, budget cost, final completed cost, details of work, duration of the project?
 33. Can you provide equivalent details for new furnishings, furniture or other decoration?
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F39

Questions to the Department of Finance and Administration
Output 1.1 Budget Advice

Tsunami Aid package

1. Can you explain what is the budgetary impact of the Tsunami Aid package, announced as the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development?
 2. Specifically, does the \$500m 40-year interest free loan have any direct impact on the underlying cash surplus and/or the fiscal surplus for the year ended 30 June 2005 or 30 June 2006?
 3. The other component is reported to be \$500m in grants. Can you confirm that the fiscal surplus for the year ended 30 June 2005 will be reduced by this \$500m expense?
 4. Will the underlying cash balance, for the relevant financial year, recognise an expense only when payments are made to the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Reconstruction and Development? When are those payments anticipated?
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F40

Ministerial and Parliamentary Services

1. How many MoPS staff are currently on AWAs, is it limited to SES-level staff or more broadly?
2. Are there any plans to broaden the use of AWAs to all staff currently covered by the Certified Agreement?
3. Please give a brief outline of how the AWAs were amended to remove the provision for cashing out of personal leave – why was this decision made, who made it and when?
4. How was this decision implemented?

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5. What does the phrase “removed from the template AWA” actually mean?
6. Doesn't the fact that the PM can unilaterally order the removal of this entitlement make a farce of the Govt's position that these are individual contracts? How do you enforce a template AWA if they were indeed individual contracts?
7. Under 'template' AWAs, what role is there for any negotiation at all? If a staff member had insisted on this provision, what action could they have taken to have this clause included in the AWA?
8. Can you confirm that the cashing out provision remains in the Certified Agreement currently in place?
9. And if the Government wanted to remove that provision from the CA, it would have to inform staff of that removal and negotiate with them about it's removal and/or its replacement with a different entitlement, is that correct?
10. That was not the case with the staff on AWAs, was it?
11. Given that this was the removal of an entitlement which had been in the AWA for some years, what effort was made to inform the staff of the change? If not why not?
12. And given that there has been a longstanding confusion about who is the employer in the MoPS arrangement, what effort was made to inform the MPs and Senators who actually sign the employment contracts on behalf of the Commonwealth, ie the officeholders, Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition etc? If none why not?
13. Was consideration given in the Dept to the desirability of informing staff or officeholders of the change in the template AWA at the time it occurred?
14. Was advice provided to the Minister dealing with this issue of informing staff of the removal of an employment entitlement?
15. If not, whose decision was it to not inform staff and/or officeholders?
16. If staff had been informed of this removal they would have been in the position to exercise the entitlement before its removal wouldn't they?
17. But given that they were not informed until after the expiry of their AWAs after the election, they could not decide to exercise this entitlement until the entitlement no longer existed, is that correct?
18. Are there any staff on AWAs who still have this entitlement?
19. Given that the new AWAs offered to staff after the election made it clear that this entitlement had been removed, what was the date of this advice, can you confirm that this was the first time staff were informed of the decision, and can you confirm that their previous AWAs had already expired at that time?
20. Can you also confirm that the staff who received these AWAs had already signed the MoPS Employment Contracts with their employing officeholder weeks earlier, with neither party to that contract aware that the resulting AWA would be different to the AWA previously in place?
21. Can you give me a breakdown of how many staff entitled to this benefit actually exercised it between the PM's decision to remove it from the template, and expiry of the previous AWAs after the election?
22. How many staff exercised this entitlement between the election and the expiry of the AWAs? Without going to the names of these staffers, can you tell us whether these were from Govt or Opp staff?

F41

MEDIBANK PRIVATE

Note press release extract: “The majority of our members currently travel, on average, less than 30 minutes to reach a member's choice hospital. This won't change once the tender process is concluded..” (Medibank Private media release, 16/2/05).

- (1) Given that most major metropolitan private hospitals are operating at, or close too, full capacity, how can Medibank Private guarantee that by “directing” volume to contracted hospitals, its members will not have increased waiting times for treatment?
- (2) What Quality Benchmarks will Medibank Private be using to evaluate hospitals?
- (3) Have they informed hospitals of these benchmarks?

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- (4) What weighting will quality benchmarks be given in evaluation of tenders?
- (5) Will Medibank Private apply the same quality benchmarks to public hospitals its members are treated in?
- (6) Can Medibank Private outline the process by which the decision was made to be the major sponsor of the Sydney International Tennis tournament?
- (7) When was this decision made?
- (8) What commercial considerations or cost/benefit analysis was undertaken in determining Medibank Private's contribution to the event?
- (9) What was the total amount spent on this sponsorship deal? What is the breakdown of this deal eg, What portion involved naming rights, prize money, etc?
- (10) Is it true that Medibank Private considered this sponsorship deal at the 'last minute'? Who was previously considering this sponsorship deal, when did they withdraw, and what was the reason for their withdrawal?
- (11) How does this contribution compare with previous years spending and other events which it has sponsored in the past? Please provide a comparison with the previous 3 years.
- (12) What impact has this sponsorship has on the fund overall? For eg. on membership levels, numbers of queries regarding products by new customers?
- (13) Does the Fund believe the deal provided 'good value' for their customers? Why?
- (14) Does the Fund believe the deal provided 'good value' for the Fund? Why?