

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Additional Budget Estimates Hearings – 14 February 2006

Question: F14

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Future Fund - Surplus

Hansard Page: F&PA 42

Senator Sherry asked:

The point I am getting at is that the government as a majority shareholder has obviously chosen not to touch the surplus in the existing fund. It has not done anything about that. The trustees are dealing with the matter. Once Telstra is sold, my understanding is the new employer, the new owners, will have a right, if they so wish, to determine what happens to that surplus. It is not just the trustees but the new owners who will have a right and can exercise it if they wish.

Answer:

The Government as a Telstra shareholder does not have a right to access any surplus in the Telstra Superannuation Scheme (TSS).

Any matter related to the surplus in the TSS is a matter for the employer and the trustee of the scheme, and any action would necessarily be considered in the context of the requirements of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*.