

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: F28

Cross Outcomes

Topic: Portfolio Responsibilities of Finance Ministers

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Senator Carr asked:

Senator Carr—Have there be any changes to the administrative orders with regard to the responsibilities for the Special Minister of State?

Senator Colbeck—I am not aware of that.

Senator Faulkner—But it is a perfectly reasonable question at this committee, given that we are dealing with an area of his responsibility.

Senator Colbeck—There have been some changes, although very minor.

Senator Faulkner—What are they, please, Ms Mason or Mr Bowen?

Mr Bowen—I do not believe there have been AAO changes. There may have been some reallocations within the portfolio but, as the parliamentary secretary said, I think they have been minor.

Senator Faulkner—So they are decisions made by Senator Minchin you are saying?

Mr Bowen—Yes.

Senator Faulkner—As it is very important that we know that for questioning at this committee, can you outline them for us?

Mr Bowen—We will get that information for you shortly.

Answer:

A table of portfolio responsibilities as allocated to the Ministers within the Finance & Administration portfolio as at 1 February 2006 (excluding the Department of Human Services) is at Attachment A.

Finance Portfolio Ministers' Responsibilities

Title	Responsibilities
Minister for Finance and Administration Leader of the Government in the Senate Senator the Hon Nick Minchin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall responsibility for the Portfolio; • evaluation, costing and monitoring of Government expenditure (Budget); • public sector financial reform and governance, including implementation of the Uhrig Report; • Commonwealth public sector superannuation (except Parliamentary Superannuation); • asset sales; • major construction projects (except those delegated to the Parliamentary Secretary); • all Government Business Enterprises (except those delegated to the Special Minister of State or Parliamentary Secretary); and • all board appointments (except for those boards within the Department of Human Services); and Future Fund.
Special Minister of State The Hon Gary Nairn MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial and Parliamentary Services; • Australian Electoral Commission; • Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO); • Domestic property (excluding major construction projects); • Defence Housing Authority; • Film Finance Corporation; • Film Australia; • Comcover; • Australian Rail Track Corporation; • Parliamentary Superannuation; and • Parliamentary Retirement Incomes Trust; and • Australian Government Solicitor.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA); • Aboriginal Hostels Limited; • Act of Grace payments; • Multi-year grants; • Commonwealth Purchasing/Procurement policy and administration; • Public Private Partnerships/Private Financing;

- legislation including consequential amendments;
- Public sector accounting standards;
- follow up of routine matters of the Joint Standing Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) and Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reports;
- Lands Acquisition Act;
- liaison with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works;
- Commonwealth Grants Commission;
- Australian Industry Development Corporation (AIDC);
- Australian River Company;
- Coal Mining Industry Corporation;
- Stevedoring Industry Finance Corporation;
- Maritime Industry Finance Corporation;
- Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation;
- Indigenous Business Australia (IBA);
- Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC);
- major construction projects (as delegated by the Minister);
- replying to general correspondence (except South Australian correspondence); and
- whole of Government motor vehicle fleet issues.