

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: F29

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Provision of Staffing Tables

Hansard Page: F&PA 65-66

Senator Ray asked:

Because there is always a three-month lag time, is there any obstacle to us being provided with these questions at the start of estimates so that we can then ask the Prime Minister through his representative obviously—as the Prime Minister is not a member of the Senate—why these changes were made?

I put a question on notice: five days prior to the next Senate estimates, can you provide me with this thing? I can do that via a Senate formal question on notice, but I would prefer to do it informally.

Answer:

It is not considered appropriate to change the current practice whereby material provided as part of the estimates deliberation for the Finance and Administration portfolio is provided in response to questions asked on Outcome 3 during the hearings.