

**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: F39**

**Outcome 2: Improved and More Efficient Government Operations, Output:**

**2.1.1 Asset Sales**

**Topic: Medibank Private**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Sherry asked:**

When is the scoping study on the sale of Medibank Private expected to be completed?

What are the options for the sale that are being considered – public float, placement etc?

Given that Medibank Private holds about 29% of the Australian market (36% in Queensland and about the same in Tasmania) what account is being taken of the competition implications of a sale?

What is the expected sale price?

**Answer:**

The report of the 2005 Update of the 2003 Medibank Private Limited (MPL) Scoping Study was presented to the Department of Finance and Administration on 22 December 2005.

No decision has yet been made by the Australian Government to sell MPL. The report of the 2005 Update of the 2003 Scoping Study examined the full range of options available to the Government in the case of a possible sale.

Competition issues were considered by the 2005 Update of the MPL Scoping Study, as they are in relation to all possible asset sales.

It is not intended that the possible proceeds from any sale of MPL be made publicly available, as it is commercially sensitive information that can affect the sale proceeds received by the Government. This is consistent with a long-standing government approach in relation to possible asset sales.