

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2007

Question: F12

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Certification of Management Reports

Hansard Page: F&PA 82

Senator Murray asked:

Let us ignore this financial year for the purposes of this discourse. Are there outstanding certifications from the 2005-06 financial year? Could you, on notice, indicate whether you intend to take any follow-up action with respect to those who have not certified at the end of last financial year? It is a basic integrity issue; if they are not signed off, they have not been certified as valid from the perspective of both the department and the member or senator?

NOTE: At the conclusion of his questioning on this topic at the hearing Senator Murray provided the Department with his question in writing as follows:

1. Please provide not certified (back as far as non-certification goes) by:

- Month & Year
- Number of Members
- Number of Senators

2. Whether any action has been / will be taken for non-certification 2005-06 (and previous FYs, if any) and if so what action it will be.

The answer below has been provided in answer to Senator Murray's written question.

Answer:

1. Certifications not returned:

2003-2004	Members	Senators
July	21	11
August	13	3
September	15	3
October	15	3
November	15	4
December	15	4
January	16	5

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2003-2004	Members	Senators
February	19	9
March	21	8
April	20	11
May	21	9
June	23	10
EOFY 03-04	21	11

2004-2005	Members	Senators
July	34	5
August	41	4
September	36	6
October	21	7
November	27	7
December	23	5
January	27	5
February	33	5
March	34	8
April	39	12
May	45	12
June	40	10
EOFY 04-05	37	10

2005-2006	Members	Senators
July	20	6
August	19	6
September	24	9
October	22	8
November	21	7
December	25	9
January	26	11
February	28	13
March	30	13
April	31	16
May	37	14
June	42	15
EOFY 05-06	65	19

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2006-2007	Members	Senators
July	44	9
August	42	10
September	45	11
October	53	18
November	59	20
December	76	29
January	129	67

2. Prior to November 2005, Ministerial and Parliamentary Services wrote annually to those Senators and Members with outstanding monthly management report certifications from the most recent financial year.

From November 2005, monthly management reports have included a table listing those certifications provided (and those that are outstanding) by the Senator or Member for the current reporting year and also the most recent 'end of financial year' report. This practice provides a more regular (monthly) record of certifications than the previous reminder letter that was sent annually.

There is no legal requirement for Parliamentarians to provide monthly management report certifications.