

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008



Question: F21

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures - the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity

Commission

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Senator Brandis asked:

Senator BRANDIS—Coming to the third item, ‘Reversal of ... Budget measure—Workplace Relations Reform—additional resourcing for Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission’ of \$5.9 million...

Senator BRANDIS— ...Did Mr Tanner, either directly or through the Attorney-General, the responsible minister, consult the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in advance of this decision being made?

Senator Sherry—I will take that on notice. I will, as a matter of courtesy, ask the finance minister whether he in fact did consult in the way you have asked and we will take it on notice.

Answer:

The decisions taken by the Strategic Budget Committee of Cabinet were made following the provision of departmental advice, consultation with relevant Ministers, and had regard to the possible effects on stakeholders.