

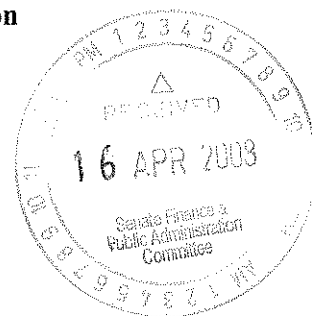
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008



Question: F24

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Savings measures – Call centres

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Senator Brandis asked:

Senator BRANDIS—If Senator Sherry knows the answer, he will not have to take it on notice, Senator Watson, but just you watch. Were the relevant call centres under consideration by the cabinet subcommittee, in which the minister whom you represent participated, call centres in Launceston or Hobart or Townsville?...

Senator Sherry—The matter of the issue impacts of individual measures that were considered by the strategic budget committee I will take on notice and seek an answer from the finance minister, Mr Tanner ... I will also take your questions on notice and refer them on to the Minister for Finance, Mr Tanner.

Answer:

It would not be appropriate to provide information on the internal deliberations of Cabinet. The Government's decision, as announced by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation on 6 February 2008, related to reversing funding previously allocated to Centrelink for call centre supplementation on a national level.