

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome: Sustainable Government Finances

Topic: Budget rules

Question reference number: F16

Type of Question: Hansard

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Number of Pages: 1

Senator ABETZ asked:

What rules does the government have in place regarding the operation of the budget? For example, is every minister required to bring forward offsets; and given the current circumstances, will the rule be now waived, given the need to stimulate the economy, or will the rule be more strongly enforced given the large budget deficit that we are facing over forward estimates?

Answer:

Consistent with previous Governments, the Government maintains budget process operational rules as part of its internal Cabinet processes. The decision to require a proposal to be offset is one for Cabinet or the relevant Cabinet committee or subject to consideration by the Prime Minister. The Government has most recently set out its fiscal strategy in the *Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook*.