

**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 1 – Sustainable Government Finances**

**Topic: Additional funding**

**Question reference number: F18**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 31**

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

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator ABETZ asked:**

**Senator ABETZ**—Thank you very much for that. In the UEFO, Dr Watt, you were the winner of an extra \$20.5 million, I understand, to strengthen the capacity of central agencies to support the government's strategic policy agenda. Is that correct?

**Dr Watt**—I am sure it is correct, Senator.

**Senator ABETZ**—All right. Are you wanting to share with us briefly, please, how this money will be allocated within Finance; which areas in Finance will receive the extra money; will it mean extra staff; in which categories, et cetera? Would you like to take that on notice and disaggregate that figure for us?

**Dr Watt**—I will have to take some of that on notice.

**Answer:**

Budget Group will be allocated \$18.3 million over three years from 2009-10 to increase the group's capacity to provide analysis and policy advice, particularly in relation to government expenditure issues. Funds will be used to recruit staff in the Agency Advice Units. Financial Management Group will be allocated \$2.3 million over three years, which will be used to increase the capacity to provide additional work on regular financial statements.