

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 3, Output 3.1.1

Topic: Topic: Mobile Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)

Question reference number: F50

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 91 on 24 February 2009

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

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Fielding asked:

Could you write to Apple and ask them to formally respond to your concerns? I am not sure. I am hearing two stories. I am not going to say that I am an expert. Yes, I am an electronic engineer, but I am not professing to be an expert. I would not mind if you could take on notice whether you could write to them specifically with your concerns and get them to respond. That way we can stop the argy-bargy backwards and forwards: 'They said; she said; I said.' Would that make sense?

Mr Quester—I do not know if we could actually write to Apple and try to influence the way they are approaching the market. I think we could approach through the Presiding Officers Information Technology Advisory Group. We could get a representative to give an explanation and presentation to that group on iPhone's capabilities and what the future direction of iPhone is.

Senator FIELDING—Could you let me know the outcome of that?

Mr Quester—Yes.

Answer:

As a result of the publication of these hearings of the committee, representatives from Apple approached the Department of Finance and Deregulation for a meeting. This meeting was held on Thursday 19 March.

Apple advised that they would be talking to the Department of Parliamentary Services that afternoon and also advised that they had approached POITAG with the offer to provide a presentation to this forum.