

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

Topic: Auditor of Parliamentary Entitlements

Question reference number: F73 (a)-(b)

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Ronaldson asked:

- (a) Is the Department aware of any appropriation listed in Budget papers which specifically allows for the establishment of an Auditor of Parliamentary Entitlements or similar office? If so, where does this appear?
- (b) What is the cost, to date, of any work done by Departmental officials or external consultants, including legal advice, in relation to the establishment of such an office?

Answer:

- (a) The Department is not aware of any appropriation listed in the budget papers which specifically allows for the establishment of an Auditor of Parliamentary Entitlements.
- (b) Work by Departmental staff on the Auditor of Parliamentary Entitlements has been undertaken in the course of preparing information and advice on issues relevant to Ministerial and Parliamentary entitlements, which is part of their normal duties. As time spent on the matter has not been separately recorded, it is not possible to provide a costing. To date, there has been no legal advice sought on the matter or consultants engaged in relation to it.