

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 2, Program 2.1

Topic: Procurement Toolkit (Liability Risk Assessment)

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Type of Question: Written

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Senator Ryan asked:

At the Supplementary Budget Estimates 2009-10 in October 2009, Mr David Tune spoke about developing a procurement tool-kit with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research for best practice benchmarks for agencies and case studies for successful procurement.

- a) Can you give an update on this?
- b) Is it available for business yet? If not, why not and what is the expected timing?
- c) How will business access it?
- d) Will it be available to all businesses to use?

Answer:

- a) A draft Liability Risk Assessment Guide (the Guide) has been developed by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research to provide some guidance and consistency across Commonwealth agencies regarding the treatment of liability risk in Commonwealth contracts.

It has been developed in consultation with key agencies, other interested agencies, as well as industry stakeholders.

- b) The Guide is currently being considered by Government and is expected to be released in the near future.
- c) It will be published electronically on the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research web site, with links from www.business.gov and the Department of Finance and Deregulation web site.

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- d) Yes. While this guide has been developed for use by procurement officers within FMA Act agencies, suppliers (particularly small business suppliers) could also benefit from gaining an understanding of its contents, and the recommended treatment of liability risk by procurement officers in the Australian Public Service.