

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 - General

Outcome 3 - General

Topic: Reviews undertaken by the Finance Portfolio

Question reference number: F86

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of Pages: 3

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) How many Reviews are currently being undertaken in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency?
- b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- c) Which Reviews have been completed since Budget Estimates?
- d) When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- e) What is the total number of Reviews *both completed and ongoing* in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?
- f) What is the estimated cost of these Reviews?
- g) What further reviews are planned for 2009-10 FY?

Answer:

For the purposes of this response 'a review' is considered to be a formal examination of an area of government policy undertaken either by an agency, or by an external source engaged by an agency. The response excludes internal reviews undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs and as part of administrative processes.

The response to Question F56: *Reports commissioned by the Government since November 2007* – reports on a number of reviews included in this response which have become the subject of a report.

All information contained in this response was current as at 9 February 2010.

a),b) The following reviews were being undertaken by the Finance and Deregulation Portfolio:

- *Review of Parliamentary Entitlements*, expected to conclude in April 2010.
- *Strategic Review of Indigenous Expenditure*, expected to conclude on 26 February 2010.
- *Internal Red Tape Review*. A review of APS internal red tape is being undertaken by Deregulation Group within the Department of Finance and

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Deregulation. This review will examine the scope to streamline the compliance burden associated with the legislative, non-legislative and reporting requirements imposed universally on Government departments and agencies by other departments and agencies. Finance will engage with other regulatory departments and agencies in developing and implementing reform options.

The review is at an early stage and, by its nature, is likely to continue over an extended period.

- *Pre-2008 Review.* A review of pre-2008 subordinate legislation and other regulation, as announced in the 2008-09 Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook, is being undertaken in close co-operation with all Commonwealth portfolio departments. The review will document those regulations which impose net costs on business and identify scope to improve regulatory efficiency. The review is expected conclude by mid-2010.
- c) The following reviews have been completed since the 2009 Budget Estimates Hearings.
- *OECD Report – Towards a Seamless National Economy, 2009 Review of Regulatory Reform: Australia;*
 - *Review of Australian Government Superannuation Administration Arrangements;*
 - *Strategic Review of Future Directions for Australian Government Service Delivery;*
 - *Strategic Review of Future Directions for Shared Services;*
 - *Strategic Review of Indexation of Commonwealth Programs; and*
 - *Strategic Review of Job Capacity Assessments Program.*
- d) This is a matter for the Government.
- e) Fourteen.
- f) Only costs identified as being above and beyond those absorbed by the Department have been included. Estimated costs for applicable reviews are:
- *Review of Parliamentary Entitlements - \$155,000.*
 - *OECD Report – Towards a Seamless National Economy, 2009 Review of Regulatory Reform: Australia.* Australia made a voluntary payment of Euro 298,000 to the OECD to support the cost of undertaking the review and producing the report.
 - *Review of Australian Government Superannuation Administration Arrangements - \$875,158.*
 - *Strategic Review of Climate Change Programs - \$90,128.*
 - *Strategic Review of the Administration of Australian Government Grants Programs - \$184,677.*

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- *Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes (Matthews Review) - \$77,053.*
 - *Review of Australian Government's use of ICT - \$625,000.*
 - *Strategic Review of Future Directions for Australian Government Service Delivery - \$185,308.*
 - *Strategic Review of Future Directions for Shared Services - \$44,022.*
 - *Strategic Review of Indexation of Commonwealth Programs - \$29,990.*
 - *Strategic Review of Job Capacity Assessments Program - \$108,900.*
 - *Strategic Review of Indigenous Expenditure - \$281,700.*
- g) This a matter for the Government.