

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 3, Program, 3.1

Topic: The cost of writing COMCAR's history

Question reference number: F9

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 15, 9 February 2010

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

Do you think that the history of COMCAR should be one of the priorities of your department, given the fact that we are by the day seeing a massive blow-out in debt and the requirement for the Australian community to service that debt? Do we need a history of COMCAR?

Answer:

COMCAR commenced this history project in early 2007 under the Howard Liberal Government, Special Minister of State, the Hon Gary Nairn MP, on the initial understanding that the origins of the organisation dated back to 1908, when the then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Andrew Fisher, purchased the first Commonwealth vehicle.

It was during the research phase of this project that the correct start date was confirmed as June 1910. COMCAR has organised the compilation of its history in recognition of the upcoming centenary.

It is unclear to me as to why, under the Liberal Government, it was confirmed that a history of COMCAR was needed.