Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department: Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program 3/3.1

Topic: Monthly Management Reports

Senator: Moore

Question reference number: F32

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Question:

Senator MOORE—If you have a system in place where you ring people if there is an issue around their orders, has there been any consideration of personal contact with senators or members who are three months behind in their management reports? I know we have talked about this on a number of occasions but it looks like there has been some good improvement from when we first started asking these questions but there are still a number that are significantly behind. You can take that on notice but if you have been able to tweak the system to have personal follow-up on things like expenditure I am just wondering what the personal follow-up is on people who are not responding to what I understood was an expectation of their employment.

Ms Clarke—There is certainly an expectation. We will take that on notice.

Answer:

In August 2007 Ministerial and Parliamentary Services complemented the monthly management reports with a table which provides up-to-date information for each Senator and Member and former Prime Minister on the status of their certifications for the current financial year. Senators and Members are also able to personally request that their reports are provided electronically to additional authorised staff member/s to assist with the checking processes undertaken by an office. Since the introduction of the certifications table in the monthly management reports, the proportion of Senators and Members who certify their monthly management reports has increased significantly to over 93 percent.