

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES –22 FEBRUARY 2011

FINANCE AND DEREGULATION PORTFOLIO

Q No.	Division or Agency	Senator	Broad Topic	Question	Hansard Page or Written Q	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	1.1 FMG	Ronaldson	Airline travel savings	<p>Senator RONALDSON—I am sure this could not possibly be right, but I read somewhere that after all the hullabaloo about Frequent Flyer points and renegotiating airline agreements that there were actually no savings. Can you clarify that for me.</p> <p>Mr Tune—No savings from what?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—From the deal done in relation to the abolition of Frequent Flyer points, which I understand was the rationale for it being done. I might be totally wrong, but I am sure I read somewhere that was the situation.</p> <p>Mr Tune—I will double-check for you. I am pretty confident there are savings there that we took account of.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—If you want to check that would be terrific.</p> <p>CHAIR—So you will come back to us?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I will take it on notice, yes.</p>	63 (22/2/11)	20/05/11	
2	1.1 FMG	Fifield	Independent Communications Committee (ICC) - Exemptions	<p>Senator FIFIELD—That is right. If you could just remind me, what was the actual exemption that was cited for the campaign? There was some unique and special phrase I recall. It was an emergency—</p> <p>Mr Tune—I do not think it was emergency; extraordinary I think it was.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—Extraordinary.</p> <p>Mr Tune—Compelling reasons.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—Extraordinary and compelling reasons.</p> <p>Mr Tune—I think it is more compelling rather than extraordinary. I will take that on notice and check it for you.</p>	11 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	
3	1.1	Ronaldson	Review of funding for	<p>Senator RONALDSON—When did the Prime Minister make</p>	15	20/04/11	

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	Budget		the Australian War Memorial	<p>the announcement?</p> <p>Mr Martine—I think, from memory, the request was around October. I am not sure of the exact date.</p> <p>Mr Tune—Late October.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—When was it formally announced?</p> <p>Mr Tune—Late October.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Are you sure?</p> <p>Senator Wong—I think the Prime Minister, from memory—</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho—The minister made reference to the review in a media interview. I can find the date for that.</p> <p>Mr Tune—28 October 2010.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Didn't the Prime Minister announce the review in mid-December?</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will take that on notice. I do not have that date here in front of me.</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho—I can find out for you very quickly.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—If you would not mind, please. That would be good. When that review was announced by Minister Snowdon, in what context was that given? Did he say that it was in the context of the budget?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I do not have the statement.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I will find that statement....</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho—Senator, the date of the minister's note in reference to this was 28 October. There was an ABC news story entitled 'War Memorial budget review amid staff cuts' on 28 October.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—What were the minister's comments? Was it in the context of it being put off until the budget?</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho—I am sorry, I do not have a transcript of it.</p> <p>Mr Tune—We would have to check the transcript.</p>	(22/2/11)		
4	1.1	Fierravanti-	Health reform campaign	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —The next point is there	18–19	13/05/11	

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	FMG	Wells	advertising	<p>was \$29.5 million in the budget that day, the same day that the certification was done. On the day after, the minister approves the launch, and on 13 May the campaign starts. On 13 May... That is why I made the point that I did, Mr Grant. Why did you state in the workforce element component of the campaign that you had reviewed the material, but you said that you had not reviewed it in the other campaign? That is my concern.</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will check all that out and get back to you about what was seen by the committee in terms of product by product</p>	(22/2/11)		
5	1.1 Budget	Cormann	MYEFO costings	<p>Senator CORMANN—During the election, the department ticked off on election costings by the government. Have there been any changes to any of those costings from the election period to MYEFO?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I would have to take it on notice and check.</p> <p>Senator Wong—Insofar as there are any changes to costings for election commitments outlined in MYEFO, those costings would be reflected in the MYEFO costings.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Mr Tune, would you be able to provide us on notice with a detailed breakdown of any of the costings that changed between the election period and MYEFO?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I think I can, but I would like to clarify what you are asking.....</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—The question is about anything that has been recosted since the election.</p> <p>Mr Tune—That is what I was trying to clarify.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Obviously things that you have not recosted, I am not requiring.</p>	19 (22/2/11)	20/05/11	
6	1.1 FMG	Fifield	Remuneration for the ICC	<p>Senator FIFIELD—I am sure they work up a real sweat through the course of the day. I would be interested in what</p>	23 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	

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				<p>the comparator is that the department sought. I appreciate that it is not actually a Remuneration Tribunal determination but that you sought what you thought was an appropriate or an equivalent rate.</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will take that on notice and come back to you, Senator.</p>			
7	1.1 Budget	Cormann	Flood tax	<p>Senator CORMANN—When was the finance department first informed about the option of implementing a flood tax to pay for the flood damage?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Tune—I do not have the date in my mind, but I can find out for you.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—If you could find out the date, I would be very grateful.</p>	27 (22/2/11)	20/04/11	
8	1.1 Budget	Fierravanti-Wells	Governance parameters of the National Funding Authority	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—... Mr Tune, you have talked about governance. What are the governance parameters of the national funding authority? How are they different to the governance arrangements with the new authority that is proposed?</p> <p>Mr Tune—If you focus the question then we can come back to you on the governance per se, as that does fall within our responsibility. I would be happy to explain the differences between the two if we can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I am interested in what differences there are in terms of the structures. I assume that this will also be set up as an independent authority?</p>	34-35 (22/2/11)	29/04/11	
9	1.1 Budget	Fierravanti-Wells	Finalisation of Boston Consulting Review	<p>Mr Tune—There was a governance structure in that review which involved secretaries, of which I was one, overseeing that piece of work which was done by Boston Consulting. KPMG were involved also. A report has been finalised, and the government's consideration of that report will feed into the budget process.</p>	42 (22/2/11)	23/05/11	

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				<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—When was that report finalised?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I would have to take that on notice.</p>			
10	1.1 FMG	Cormann	MYEFO estimate - discrepancy	<p>Senator CORMANN—Okay, but the MYEFO estimate for 30 June 2011 is \$380 billion; the actual as of 31 December 2010 is \$388 billion, so there is a difference there. What is driving your expectation of the difference in terms of total liabilities?</p> <p>Mr Youngberry—I think we would have to take that one on notice. As Dr Helgeby mentioned earlier, there is a process we go through each month where we collect data from agencies in relation to not just the balance sheet but also the income statement, and we would have to go back 16and assess which agencies actually contributed to that. You cannot actually take the 31 December figure and extrapolate to 30 June because it does reflect what invoices and so on are on hand.</p>	48 (22/2/11)	23/05/11	
11	1.1 FMG	Cormann	December monthly financial statements	<p>Senator CORMANN—I would have thought that if you provide an update of Australian government monthly financial statements to December 2010 and we have got the Senate budget estimates a week later, that that would be an obvious area for questioning.</p> <p>Mr Tune—Yes, I am sorry; we just do not have them, but I am happy to do an explanation for you about what—</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—So, I will just put all these questions on notice because you will not be able to answer them because you have not got the paperwork.</p>	49 (22/2/11)	23/05/11	
12	1.1 Budget	Cormann	Costings -dollar figures	<p>Senator Wong—We have the costings</p> <p>Mr Martine—There were six costings which I will read out, reform of arrangements for FBT on company cars; reintroduction of indexation of the fuel excise; end of forestry managed investment schemes; geographical disadvantage test; a new criterion for the youth allowance; differential between</p>	51 (22/2/11)	27/05/11	

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				<p>the government and the Greens' paid parental leave scheme; and a feasibility study and preliminary sketch plan for a pedestrian footpath between London Circuit and Parliament House in Canberra.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Do you have a dollar figure for those?</p> <p>Mr Martine—I do not have the dollar figures. I will have to double check, in terms of the FOI, as to what was included. We can take that on notice in terms of the dollar figures. As Mr Tune indicated, we costed some and Treasury costed others.</p>			
13	1.1 Budget	Abetz	Fair Work Ombudsmen	<p>Senator ABETZ—I will quickly ask it. It relates to question on notice 187 regarding the monies that are invested for the Fair Work Ombudsman. In the answer I was told that money is either held at call or held in term deposits. Can somebody tell us if the Fair Works Ombudsman's money is held at call or in term deposits? In which category is that held? Surely somebody must know that. If you do not know now, I will not delay the committee and we will take that on notice.</p> <p>Mr Martine—We will have to take it on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I will quickly follow up and say that the government must know how much it earns at call on a daily basis from all its investments and what the aggregate figure is invested on a daily basis and also what moneys are in term deposits each day. Can you confirm that that is the case in your answer when you get back? We might then be able to drill down as to the exact quantum from the Fair Work Ombudsman.</p>	51 (22/2/11)	20/05/11	
14	1.1 Deregulation	Payne	Funding for Business Regulation and Competition Working	<p>What is the resourcing for the Business Regulation and Competition Working Group, including details of source and amount of funding, what Commonwealth, state and territory</p>	written	20/05/11	

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			Group	agencies are involved, and staffing (on the secretariat and otherwise).			
15	1.1 Deregulation	Ryan	Business deregulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. As part of this process, how many new federal regulations have been added due to the 27 deregulation priorities, and how many have been removed? b. Is it the policy of the Gillard Government to have a one in, one out policy with regard to new regulations? c. According to the Department of Finance, how many new regulations have been introduced, and how many have been repealed? 	written	20/04/11	
16	1.1 FMG	Ryan	Printers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Under the Department of Finance's procurement arrangements, is it possible for small printing businesses to secure contracts for printing services to Commonwealth agencies? b. List the steps small printing businesses need to follow to be accepted into the Printer's Panel for purposes of supplying the Commonwealth printing services. c. What applications forms do small businesses have to complete to apply to secure printing contracts with the Commonwealth? (list by name or form ID number). d. How many pages of application forms need to be completed? e. How are small printing businesses notified of up coming printing contracts? f. Can small printing businesses apply to join the Printer's Panel at any stage throughout the financial year, or is there a specific 'in take' period? g. How was the Printer Panel established? h. How are non-panel members notified of upcoming Commonwealth printing contracts? i. Were printing businesses that had previously supplied printing services to the Commonwealth notified of any 	written	20/04/11	

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				changes in Commonwealth procurement procedures before the panel arrangement came into effect?			
17	1.3 Budget	Fierravanti-Wells	Treasury costings for GST to health and hospitals	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Are you aware of any advice or calculations that were done in relation to the amount of GST revenue that was necessary or that would have had to have been withheld by the Commonwealth in the Commonwealth forward estimates for dedication to health and hospitals? Regarding the proposal in relation to the 30 per cent of GST, were you aware of any work or were you given advice in relation to calculations of that 30 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Tune—No. That is purely Treasury; GST is their responsibility.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I thought you said that you would have received advice by way of information.</p> <p>Mr Tune—We would be informed of what might be going on, but as to the details of the calculations, no.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Could you take on notice any advice that you were provided in relation to that?</p>	37 (22/2/11)	29/04/11	
18	1.3 Budget	Fierravanti-Wells	COAG Health Legislation	<p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Do I understand in summary, therefore, that the legislation at both the federal and the state level needs to be in place by 1 July for this entity to be operational? That is the effect of what is in the provisions in that agreement.</p> <p>Mr De Carvalho—I am not sure. I will have to take that on notice. I will get back to you fairly quickly.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—As I understand it, it will require legislation at a federal level and each of those bodies will require legislation at a state level.</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—The reason I ask is because I am somewhat confused. This agreement changes the previous agreement, this one supersedes that one, but it is not</p>	37 (22/2/11)	24/05/11	

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				<p>very clear as to what is superseded, which is the basis upon which I am asking the question. It is unclear how much of the state structures in this agreement survive under that one. Perhaps if you could take on notice the parameters of your involvement from the legislative perspective, where you will be having input.</p> <p>Mr Tune—I will take that on notice. If you want to get to the differences between the two documents, I do not think it is us who should be answering those questions.</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—No, I appreciate that. I am only interested from Finance’s perspective and what you have to do. Will the legislation be under the purview of Minister Wong or will it be under Minister Roxon’s health legislation?</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will take that on notice as well. I do not think it will sit within the finance portfolio.</p> <p>Senator Wong—Which legislation?</p> <p>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—This national funding.</p> <p>Mr Tune—We want to check a couple of things here. First, we want to check whether legislation is required. That is one thing we will take on notice for you. Second, there is the question of where it might sit. I am pretty confident it will not sit in Finance if it is required.</p>			
19	1.3 Budget	Moore	Interaction of government departments in the health and hospitals network	<p>Senator MOORE—Is there something you can give me that is actually in a diagram that can show me all of this?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I think there is a diagram around.</p> <p>Senator MOORE—I have not seen it. I do like diagrams.</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho—If one does not exist, Senator, we could construct one.</p>	41 (22/2/11)	29/04/11	
20	2.1 AMPS	Fifield	SACL - contract awarded to Mr Tom Brennan	<p>Senator FIFIELD—I have just one more contract question before I yield to a colleague. It regards a contract awarded to a Mr Tom Brennan, who I think is a former principal advisor to</p>	13 (22/2/11)	20/05/11	

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				<p>Brian Howe, to the value of \$53,000. The CN number is CN364332.</p> <p>Mr Edge—That contract relates to an engagement for Tom Brennan, who is a Sydney barrister, to review expenditure that the department has incurred in relation to litigation with the New South Wales government on the Sydney Airport stamp duty matter. It is to review the costs of legal services provided to date, costs that the Department of Finance and Deregulation has incurred in conducting that matter; looking at the expenditure which the department has made on legal services.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—What prompted the review?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I will give you a bit of background about this case....</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—What have been the legal costs to date?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I will have to take that on notice.</p>			
21	2.1 AMPS	Cormann	Value of Medibank Private	<p>Senator CORMANN—Ms Mason, the reason we have Senate estimates is so that we can dig beyond what is published in the budget papers. The whole purpose of this process is to go into more detail than what is there. I am asking you the question: what is the current value of Medibank Private?</p>	9 (22/2/11)	02/05/11	
22	2.1 AGIMO	Ludlam	Calculations of CO2 emissions that have been avoided by using telepresence	<p>Mr Tune—...There is a booking system that is used, and that records the savings in dollars from flights to meetings avoided and also does a calculation of CO2 emissions that have been avoided. We can provide that to you. That is collected on a regular basis.</p> <p>Senator LUDLAM—Yes, I would appreciate that.</p>	61-62 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	
23	2.1 AGIMO	Ludlam	Telepresence rollout	<p>Mr Sheridan—We are exploring it this financial year. I am not yet sure, because of the detailed software configurations that will be required to make it work, how long it will take to do that or whether it will be cost-effective. We will need to explore that.</p>	62 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	

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				<p>Senator LUDLAM—I guess you would be balancing cost-effectiveness against the number of airfares that you reckon you can offset and it will come from other people's budgets. Can you maybe just take on notice for us to provide some kind of written estimate of when a decision will be made as to whether that will happen or not.</p> <p>Mr Sheridan—We can.</p>			
24	2.1 AMPS	Birmingham	CCDA scheme	<p>Under what circumstances can a claim be accepted under the <i>Scheme for Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration (CDDA Scheme)</i>?</p> <p>a. Specifically, is it possible for a claim to be accepted when other forms of compensation are either available or announced as being under development?</p> <p>b. Does the capping of such other compensation affect whether a CDDA Scheme claim can be accepted?</p>	written	13/05/11	
25	2.2 AMPS	Cormann	Centrelink properties	<p>Senator CORMANN—But—and this concludes it from my point of view—it is fair to say that you have no idea whether the Centrelink development at Tuggeranong is the best possible value for taxpayers' money?</p> <p>Mr Scott-Murphy—The Centrelink commitment to the development at Tuggeranong is at least four years old, to my recollection. I am not aware of a new building that they are contemplating making a commitment for, but I will certainly investigate that further following your question.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Thank you. Could you provide as much of the detail as possible to the questions I have put on notice.</p>	55 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	
26	2.2 AMPS	Cormann	Government owned properties	<p>Senator CORMANN—That is what I thought. But how many government owned properties are empty across Canberra and across Australia?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I would have to take that on notice. I am aware of one in Canberra that is empty, which is Anzac Park East.</p>	53 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	

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27	2.2 AMPS	Cormann	Government office space	Senator CORMANN —I would now like to take up the minister's offer to clarify. I am looking for how many government owned properties are currently empty across Australia and across Canberra, the location and reasons why they are empty.	54-55 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	
28	2.2 AMPS	Humphries	ANZAC Park West	In relation to the building, ANZAC Park West, could the Department please provide the following information: a. What refurbishment has been undertaken on ANZAC Park West in the last 5yrs? b. When was refurbishment commenced on the building? c. When is the refurbishment expected to conclude? d. What is the cost associated with the refurbishment of the building? e. Over the period of the refurbishment, which Departments have leased the building? f. What is the scope of refurbishment being undertaken? g. Who is the current lessee of the building? h. What is the maximum occupancy of the building?	written	13/05/11	
29	3.1 AMPS	Fifield	Travel and salaries of caucus communications team	Senator FIFIELD —Far be it for those to be made at Senate estimates under any regime. Could you provide a breakdown of travel undertaken by members of the caucus communications team this financial year? Mr Tune —Can we take that on notice? There is nothing in the briefing. Senator FIFIELD —Yes. Also, Ms Clarke, in addition to the total cost of the salaries, would you be able to provide a breakdown by band or whatever is appropriate? Ms Clarke —By classification? Senator FIFIELD —Yes. I assume members of the caucus communications team are paid travel allowance when they have to travel for work purposes. Are you able to provide, for this financial year, the total amount of travel allowance that	57 (22/2/11)	25/05/11	

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				has been paid to members of the caucus communications team, and also—I am not sure how you would tabulate this—the various places that overnight travel was claimed? It might be for position A, X number of nights in Sydney and X number of nights in Melbourne; for position B, X number of nights in Cairns or Tasmania; it might be that they have not travelled much at all? I would like to have that sort of breakdown.			
30	3.1 AMPS	Ryan	Date the PM's Chief of Staff started	Senator RYAN —What date did the Prime Minister's new Chief of Staff, Mr Hubbard, start work? Ms Clarke —I would have to take that on notice.	60 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	
31	3.1 AMPS	Ludlam	M&PS Travel report pointers	Ms Mason —On a six-monthly basis there is a report tabled in the parliament that sets out the travel expenditure for senators and members for the previous six months. For instance, the report that covers the period, say, 1 July to 31st December 2010 will be tabled in about June of this year. Senator LUDLAM —Rather than asking you to chase that and table it, if you can just provide us pointers on notice, I will go and do the homework.	61 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	
32	3.1 AMPS	Moore	Monthly management reports	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	66 (22/2/11)	13/05/11	

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				<p>an expectation of their employment. Ms Clarke—There is certainly an expectation. We will take that on notice.</p>			
33	3.1 AMPS	Abetz	Electrical testing and tagging of Electorate Offices	<p>a. What are the specific details of the current contract for testing and tagging including but not limited to duration, cost per item, requirements and range of tests conducted? b. Was this contract subject to a tender process? a. What are the recommended intervals between inspection and testing for electrical equipment? b. Does the current provider have offices in every state? Could tagging be achieved more cost effectively to award contract on state-by-state basis? Are records of testing kept in each office? Are hard copies provided or can results be easily obtained?</p>	written	13/05/11	
34	General COOG/PCU	Abetz	Shannon's Way QoN response	<p>Senator ABETZ—..... The other aspect is that I believe I asked some questions about Shannon's Way last time. It may well be an error in my office. I make no allegation, but I understand I have not had a response to those questions. The secretary suggests that might be the case. All I am doing, if I may, is putting that on <i>Hansard</i>— Mr Tune—Was Shannon's Way in relation to maps in some way? Senator ABETZ—Yes. CHAIR—We have not got to there yet. Senator ABETZ—I will leave that with you on notice and we</p>	51 (22/2/11)	27/05/11	

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				will deal with that at a later stage.			
35	General COOG	Abetz	Interaction with the ACTU	<p>Has the Department and/or agencies within the portfolio</p> <p>c. Obtained any</p> <p>i. Goods</p> <p>ii. Services, including consultancy advice from the ACTU or any unions since December 2007</p> <p>d. Paid any monies to the ACTU or any unions for any purpose since December 2007? If so, in each instance, what:</p> <p>i. Goods and services have been obtained?</p> <p>ii. Has been the purpose of these payments?</p> <p>iii. What amounts have been paid?</p> <p>iv. To whom have they been paid?</p> <p>v. When were they paid?</p>	written	18/05/11	
36	AEC	Fifield	Donations from the Canberra Labor club	<p>Senator FIFIELD—At the outset I would just like to confirm some donation figures which would have been registered with the AEC. Firstly, could you confirm that the ACT branch of the Australian Labor Party received \$238,552.86 from the Canberra Labor Club in the 2006-07 financial year?</p> <p>Mr Pirani—I do not have all those figures in front of me given how many returns were published, but I am aware it was a large figure. I would have to take on notice to confirm the actual amount.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—Sure. Also, that the ACT branch of the Australian Labor Party received \$558,128 from the Canberra Labor Club in the 2007-08 financial year.</p> <p>Mr Pirani—Again, I would look to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—Also, that the ACT branch of the Australian Labor Party received \$550,232 from the Canberra Labor Club in the 2008-09 financial year.</p> <p>Mr Pirani—Again, I would need to take that on notice to confirm the actual figure.</p>	67 (22/2/11)	20/05/11	

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				<p>Senator FIFIELD—Also, that the ACT branch of the Australian Labor Party received \$662,067 from the Canberra Labor Club in 2008-09 financial year.</p> <p>Mr Pirani—The same response.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—If you could also take on notice what the total be would add up to over those various return years? You might want to take my word for it but no doubt you will check and take it on notice, but it comes to the total of \$2,008,979.86.</p> <p>Mr Pirani—We do publish the returns on the internet and we do have a search engine on the internet that enables you to search by a particular donor, by a particular party et cetera, and you get cumulative amounts over those years. We will certainly take that on notice and confirm that the information that you have asked about is correct.</p>			
37	AEC	Ronaldson	Outcome of the Fair Work Australia inquiries	<p>Senator RONALDSON—...I have put to Mr Pirani that it would be appropriate for a formal request to be made to Fair Work Australia before the statute of limitations finishes so that the commission, which has been saying now for some 18 months that depending on the—</p> <p>Mr Pirani—I will give you an undertaking. I will definitely pursue it and if the answer is no I will escalate it to the Electoral Commissioner to have a word with the head of Fair Work Australia.</p>	79 (22/2/11)	27/05/11	
38	AEC	Ronaldson	Court proceedings	<p>Senator RONALDSON—They were summary offences, too, from recollection, were they not?</p> <p>Mr Pirani—They are all summary offences, yes.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—When was the DPP's brief received?</p> <p>Mr Pirani—I can take that on notice, but it was late last year. I actually do have that.</p>	72 (22/2/11)	27/05/11	
39	AEC	Ronaldson	Legal professional	<p>Mr Pirani—To the extent I would have to go through the</p>	72-74	27/05/11	

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			privilege	<p>minister for public interest immunity, but certainly we would be claiming legal professional privilege in the normal sort of context that would apply, yes.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I have my standing orders with me. I think in this situation the minister has to claim privilege, hasn't she, and then give an explanation?</p> <p>Senator Wong—I will take it on notice and come back to the committee on that point... I will give the explanation in the answer as well.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—...If you are claiming privilege, then I do ask that you provide the committee with a statement for your conclusion specifying the harm to the public interest that could result from the disclosure.</p> <p>Senator Wong—I will do so.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—At which stage I will then ask for a meeting of the committee to make a decision as to whether the committee believes that statement is sufficient to justify the withholding of information.</p> <p>Senator Wong—And I will do so. I have taken it on notice and I will have regard to the standing orders of the Senate at the time I consider that.</p> <p>Senator Wong—I will be clear. As is my right under the standing orders and as a matter of past practice of this Senate, I will take it on notice to consider it insofar as it relates to my portfolio. I am in fact here representing another minister—that is, the Special Minister of State. He will obviously have to consider the request that has been made.</p>	(22/2/11)		
40	AEC	Fifield	Electoral Roll Management	<p>a. Could you provide a breakdown, by electorate, of the 100,000 additional enrolments resulting from the High Court ruling in <i>Rowe v Electoral Commissioner</i> (2010)?</p> <p>b. Have there been any more amalgamations of any Divisional Returning Officers, if so where?</p>	written	13/05/11	

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				c. Are there any more amalgamations planned for the rest of the year, if so where?			
41	General	Ronaldson	New Arrangements for Merit and Transparency in Senior Public Service Appointments” issued on 5 February 2008	<p>a. On what terms is each of the agency heads and statutory office holders employed?</p> <p>i. This answer should include the office holder’s name, date of first appointment to that position, date of expiry of term(s), date of reappointment(s), date of expiry of existing tenure and any special legislative requirements which may be attached to this position.</p> <p>b. Where a new appointment has been made since 5 February 2008:</p> <p>i. On what dates and in which publications were the position advertised?</p> <p>ii. How many candidates applied?</p> <p>iii. How many were interviewed?</p> <p>iv. Was the candidate originally selected by the ‘merit and openness’ process for each position subsequently appointed by the Minister?</p> <p>v. For what period of time was the appointment made?</p> <p>c. For each of the positions covered by the Merit and Transparency process, how many and which ones are positions appointed by the Minister upon the recommendation of a Board</p> <p>d. What additional criteria apply to each of the positions covered by the Merit and Transparency process?</p> <p>e. In how many appointments did the Minister seek to make an appointment that was not recommended by the Secretary in the Merit and Transparency process?</p> <p>i. In each case, on what date did the Minister write to the Prime Minister seeking approval?</p>	written	27/05/11	

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. On what date did the Prime Minister respond? iii. In each case, did the Prime Minister support the Minister's recommendation? iv. Can a copy of all relevant correspondence be provided to the committee? f. How many and which positions have other legislative provisions which relate to an appointment over and above this process? g. How many and which appointments have been made for less than five years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Where an appointment has been made for less than five years, how long has it been made for? ii. In each case, on what date was this request made to the Minister? iii. In each case, on what date did the Minister and/or the Prime Minister and/or Cabinet approve the request? iv. On how many and in which cases was the request not approved? h. How many and which of the positions identified in the list are also positions under the <i>Public Service Act</i>? 			
42	Medibank	Moore	Impact of recent natural disasters on Medibank Private	<p>Senator MOORE—I just wanted to get some of that on record for the Senate process but, on notice, is the department going to be doing some kind of a report? I am particularly interested in the way the disaster plan kicked in and how computers and the interaction with the other networks locally operated. Is it possible to get a bit of a report for the committee just generally on the way that the organisation was impacted and the various steps that were taken to look at it?</p> <p>Mr Savvides—I would be delighted to do that, Senator. I will compile the report and send it.</p>	10 (22/2/11)	29/04/11	
43	Medibank	Moore	Medibank legislation	Senator MOORE —Also, the particular impact of the use of	10	03/05/11	

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				the legislation to provide some help for people with their premiums and how that is going to operate. Is it going to be reviewed at certain dates? I will not go into all that detail now, but if we could get that on notice that would be great.	(22/2/11)		
44	1.1	Cash	Asylum seekers	What is the global budget, across all portfolios, for intercepting, transferring, housing, processing (including administrative and judicial review) and removing asylum seekers?	Written	27/05/11	