

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Advice to Independents and Crossbenchers

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F10

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Has the Department been asked to do any alternative policies by Green, Independent or crossbench senators or members?
- b) Has the Department refused to undertake any such requests?
- c) What policy proposals has the Department provided advice to Green, Independent and crossbench Senators or members about?
- d) Has the Department a method of calculating the cost to the Department of providing such advice?
- e) Can the Department provide advice on the resources that have been utilised to complete such policy costing requests?

Answer:

- a) Yes. The Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) has been asked by the Government to undertake costings on policies that have been submitted to the Prime Minister by the Greens and Independents.
- b) No.
- c) The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has provided a response to the Committee regarding Question on Notice 13, from the October 2011 hearings, noting that costing requests received from the Greens and Independents have covered the following general policy areas: taxation, education, health, environment, housing, communities, transport, regional, communications, employment, infrastructure, superannuation, science, veterans, governance and sports.
- d) The costing of policies from the Greens or Independents is done by Finance at the request of the Government and is incorporated into the Department's usual costing processes. No additional or separate resources are devoted to costing these policies.

- e) As any costings performed for Greens or Independents are integrated into Finance's usual costing processes, no records are kept on resources used or time spent on these specific items. However, resources devoted to this activity are marginal.