

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Costings for Independents

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F7

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 38, 12 February 2013

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Tuesday, 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RYAN: If I was to ask a question on notice about your capability to answer a question, for example, four costings were provided yesterday in that question on notice about Greens costings, about the resources required or the time required by staff to prepare those costings, would you be capable of answering that?

Mr Tune: Those four specific ones?

Senator RYAN: Yes, they are the only ones that I have seen so I was using them as an example. I appreciate there is going to be a range of complexity but they are four fairly specific spending measures. Are you able to answer questions about the resource use?

Mr Tune: I can take it on notice and see what we can provide. I am not sure we get right down—

Mr Martine: We do not tend to track timesheets and time taken to individual costings. We can take it on notice and have a look and make some broad judgements.

Answer:

Costings are part of Finance's core activities and records are not kept on resources used or time spent on specific activities. The work for the four costings tabled (response to October 2012 Supplementary Budget Estimates question F45), were incidental to the regular costings work of Finance. As a general guide, Finance aims to complete costings within six days.