

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

**Department of Finance and Administration**

Budget Estimates Hearings, 25-26 May 2005

**Question: F25**

**Outcome: 1, Output: 1.2.2**

**Topic: Medicare Safety Net**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 101**

**Senator Sherry asked:**

Did CAMM detect that the funds being transferred to pay for the Medicare safety net were likely to exceed the original costing?

**Answer:**

CAMM provides the means by which agencies can, inter alia, transfer the funding from existing appropriations from the Official Public Account into their bank accounts. The budget for all special appropriations is maintained in one aggregate appropriation control total for each agency in CAMM. CAMM ensures draw downs for the total of agency programmes do not exceed the aggregate control total for all special appropriations.

In the case of the Department of Health and Ageing, the Medicare safety net is not a separately identifiable item in CAMM but, rather, is part of the Medicare services programme. It is at this level that the Department of Health and Ageing draws down its special appropriation.

CAMM does not record expenditure by appropriation as this information is maintained in agencies' financial management information systems. It is not the role of CAMM to detect when expenditure will exceed the special appropriation limit for a particular programme.