

Estimates 2005-06 — Budget Estimates, May 2005**Questions on Notice Index—Finance and Administration portfolio**

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
F1	DOFA	Faulkner	F&PA 6 25/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Did you do this in writing, Dr Watt? Did you put a brief up to Senator Minchin?</p> <p>Dr Watt—I would need to refresh my memory. I need to check, but I can check and come back to you.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Watt—I will confirm whether the advice was oral or in writing, Senator Faulkner,</p>	Answer received 10/8/05
F2	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 16 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—What is the relative staff growth in the Department of Defence compared to other departments?</p> <p>Dr Watt—The Department of Defence?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Sorry, the Department of Finance and Administration.</p> <p>Dr Watt—It is not something that I have looked at. I would be happy to take it on notice and get you an answer.</p>	Answer received 4/7/05
F3	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 20 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Mr Bowen, we have specifically identified the that private health insurance rebate is in the contingency reserve. That is a government program. I understand the reason why you will not identify the figures—they are commercial-in-confidence—and I accept that. But I do not accept why you cannot identify what other programs are in that contingency reserve. The private health insurance rebate is quite specifically identified.</p> <p>Mr Bowen—What I am happy to do—but it will take a little time to do it—is to go through the budget papers and identify those programs where it has been disclosed that there is a provision in the contingency reserve. My memory is failing on me, but I think there are other references. If there are, we will pull those out and provide them to you—that is, if they have been disclosed the budget papers.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—That is my concern. I am asking that, where they have not been disclosed, the names of the programs be identified. I am not asking for the figures, because I accept the caveat on the figures, but I would like the names of the programs. If we have disclosed the private health insurance rebate is allocated to the contingency reserve and the growth in the forward estimates, I do not see why—and I understand the sensitivity and accept your</p>	Answer received 4/8/05

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				<p>explanation—other programs that are included in the reserve but are not identified elsewhere in the budget papers cannot be listed.</p> <p>Mr Bowen—I will take your question on notice; that is the best I can do here.</p>	
F4	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 21-22 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Do we have a historical figure?</p> <p>Mr Staun—For the previous year?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Yes.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We do not have a historical series here. We could get you a historical series, I am sure, going back over a number of years.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Okay.</p>	Answer received 4/8/05
F5	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 25-26 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Are you able to provide some sort of definition of that in terms of people in particular areas?</p> <p>Dr Watt—We could take that on notice. We can provide you with the broad areas but I am not sure we can provide you with people.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—A staffing estimate would be useful. I am not going to hold you to precise numbers.</p> <p>Dr Watt—If it is a staffing estimate, that would be a matter for the Department of Defence.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Okay.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We can give you some information on where the efficiency dividend is to be applied.</p> <p>Mr Bowen—The types.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Yes, the types of expenditure. What we do not have would be the staffing and the—</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Okay, types of expenditure. Perhaps the secretariat of the committee could pass on a question on notice about staffing in particular areas. I am sure the Department of Defence—</p> <p>Dr Watt—We would be delighted to refer it to the Department of Defence.</p>	Answer received 2/9/05
F6	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 32 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—How many green briefs did the department prepare?</p> <p>Dr Watt—Quite a few. I am not sure we normally release that information. They are cabinet documents.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I am not going to the detail; I am just asking the number, and I think that is a fair question.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I could take that on notice and have a look if you want me to.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Do you have any approximate idea?</p>	Answer received 4/8/05

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				<p>Dr Watt—No. The other thing I would say is that, while it is an interesting exercise, gee it can be misleading because one big one is as many as 10 small ones. I do not know the number. I am happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—It is an interesting index. Whether it is misleading or not is for other people to judge. I am interested in the facts.</p> <p>Dr Watt—You never construct an index if you know it is misleading. Anyway, I am happy to take it on notice and have a look at it.</p>	
F7	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 32 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—As to the number of green briefs compared to previous years, can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Dr Watt—I will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 4/8/05
F8	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 33 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Thank you. How many decisions were communicated to the department in the final two weeks before the budget?</p> <p>Dr Watt—I do not think that I can comment on that.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Why not? I am asking for a number.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I do not think it is relevant for me to comment on that. You are talking about the processes of government decision making. I do not think I should comment on that.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I think you can give a number. I think it would be wrong for me to ask for the details of any of those but I do not see that a number—its workload, its expenditure and so on—is a question that you should not answer.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Suppose I take it on notice for you and see what we can find.</p>	Answer received 4/8/05
F9	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 36 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—I can understand that. Can the committee be provided with a list of monitored programs?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—Can I take that on notice to have a look at that?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I think it is reasonable to take it on notice, but I think it would be unreasonable not to give us a list of the monitored programs.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will look at it.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I stress that I think it is reasonable to take it on notice, because I would not have expected you to have it here, but I think it is unreasonable if you do not provide it. I think it is a reasonable request. We have talked about expenditures against programs...</p>	Answer received 30/9/05
F10	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 37 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—In that costing, was allowance made for the</p>	Answer received

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				possibility that people would increase their expenditure? Was any allowance made for that? Mr Weiss—I do not recall; I would have to take that on notice.	4/8/05
F11	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 37-38 25/5/05	Senator SHERRY—I know it is a while ago, but you were specifically involved and this has been a major matter of public contention. Was there any allowance made for the possibility of fee increases or the restructuring of fees? Mr Weiss—I do not think so, no. Dr Watt—There is a point to make about costing which comes out very clearly in the Charter of Budget Honesty—that is, we try to avoid resorting to behavioural assumptions. The reason we do that is that they are subject to significant judgments. Mr Weiss will check about the question you have asked, but it is quite possible that there was no allowance made, because it is a behavioural assumption and you do not know—you have no idea—about how big the behavioural change is going to be unless you have some data to guide you. If you have some data from a similar program or something else then you are able to use it, but, if you do not, you cannot. Senator SHERRY—But as best as you can recollect, Mr Weiss, the department did not make any observations about that? Dr Watt—In relation to fees, I think Mr Weiss has said, as best as he can recollect, no. On the other issue you have raised, I think Mr Weiss has said that he does not recall and he will check.	Answer received 4/8/05
F12	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 38 25/5/05	Senator SHERRY—Was an allowance made on this occasion for any behavioural effect in response to the lower thresholds? Mr Weiss—Again, I do not recall specifically; I would have to take that on notice.	Answer received 4/8/05
F13	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 38 & 57 25/5/05	Senator SHERRY—I know it is not what you said, Dr Watt. What has been assumed about the proportion of those people who would access the scheme through the lower threshold? Mr Weiss—The costings did distinguish between concession card holders and the rest of the population, so we will have that information, but I do not have it with me. Senator SHERRY—So there was an assumption made in respect of the lower threshold. Mr Weiss—There was a split made, yes. Senator SHERRY—And that would have been incorporated into the 450,000 figure that the minister announced?	Answer received 4/8/05

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				<p>Mr Weiss—I assume so, yes.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—A press release from the Minister for Health and Ageing on 9 April 2004 stated that 34,000 individuals or families had accessed the scheme within its first month of operation and that 81 per cent of these were CCH or received the FTB A and therefore accessed the safety net through the lower threshold. Had it been assumed that 81 per cent of recipients would be concession card holders?</p> <p>Mr Weiss—I do not recall the precise proportion, so I would need to check to confirm that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—The question I just asked, and which I asked before lunch. The health minister's press release referred to 81 per cent. Had it been assumed that 81 per cent of recipients would be concession card holders?</p>	
F14	DOFA	Murray	F&PA 44 25/5/05	<p>Senator MURRAY—I am really interested in when the effect on our cash balances occurs. When does this sum of money leave Australian Commonwealth hands?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—I would have to take that on notice. We will have made some assumptions about that and it will be inherent in the cash flow statements. I would have to have a close look.</p>	Answered F&PA 47
F15	DOFA	Faulkner	F&PA 47 & 51 25/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—What were the costs of the conference room?</p> <p>Mr Suur—I do not have those figures with me.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We are happy to get that for you.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Could you take on notice the disaggregated cost of the conference room?</p> <p>Dr Watt—Yes.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Anyway, will you take on notice the costs of the refurbishment in relation to the conference room?</p> <p>Dr Watt—I am happy to do that.</p>	<p>Answered F&PA 62 25/5/05</p> <p>Dr Watt—Earlier, Senator Faulkner asked for the fit-out cost of the conference room done in the executive area of the John Gorton Building nearly 12 months ago. The cost was \$49,500.</p>
F16	DOFA	Wong	F&PA 54 25/5/05	<p>Senator WONG—What is the cost of the increased administration of this package for the employment department?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—I do not have that figure immediately to hand. I could take that on notice for you.</p>	Answer received 10/8/05
F17	DOFA	Moore	F&PA 90 25/5/05	Senator MOORE—You are hoping to have at least the preliminary	Answer received

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				idea of the three-year plan by the end of June? Mr Alfredson—Yes, by the end of June. Senator MOORE—And that will be a public plan? Mr Alfredson—Yes, provided that has gone through the clearances and I am happy with it, I will issue that plan to all the agencies and hopefully put it up on the internet too so it is available. Senator MOORE—Can we get a copy to the shadow minister? Mr Alfredson—Yes.	4/7/05
F18	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 68 25/5/05	Senator SHERRY—Can you provide us with the new actuarial figures to 2042? Ms Doran—Yes, we can take that on notice.	Answer received 7/9/05
F19	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 77 25/5/05	Senator SHERRY—Has the material I asked for earlier been made available to the committee secretariat? Ms Doran—We were going to take it on notice to provide the liability numbers later. Senator SHERRY—Okay. I thought you were passing it up. Ms Doran—No.	Answer received 7/9/05
F20	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 81 25/5/05	Senator SHERRY—You have done some work on alternative scenarios, and I think that is important to the public debate. Is it possible to make those alternative scenarios available? Senator Minchin—We will take that on notice. As the officer has said, everybody out there in the financial community has done their own little desktop projections, as have you.	Answer received 4/8/05
F21	DOFA	Moore	F&PA 90 25/5/05	Senator MOORE—Can we have a copy of the interim six-month program that you set up? Mr Alfredson—Yes. I can certainly make that available to you.	Answer received 4/7/05
F22	DOFA	Moore	F&PA 90 25/5/05	Senator MOORE—Can we also have from you a list of the agencies with whom you have consulted—the 18? Mr Alfredson—Yes, I can give you a list of all those agencies. We will not be doing work in all of those agencies. Some of those programs may not be material. I can certainly give you a list of the agencies we have been having consultations with.	Answer received 4/7/05
F23	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 99-100 25/5/05	Senator SHERRY—I accept all of that. But I do not see what is so hard here. It would just seem to me to be totally responsible and obviously logical of the department to have formally communicated to the minister in writing—because he complained that he did not get it in writing prior to the election being called—about what was happening with this program's costs. Dr Watt—We would have updated the Minister for Finance and	Answer received 4/8/05

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				<p>Administration on the emerging expenses picture. I do not remember the timing of specific briefs on that. I suspect that the issue of key program costs was covered. They would be normal events. But, as to when and in what form, at this juncture I do not know. Subject to the minister, I am happy to take it on notice and check.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Minchin—No, not that I recall. The department has taken on notice the question of when and how it formally advised me about the situation regarding the safety net. I am happy for them to consider that question. No doubt, at some point in the budget preparatory phase post election, I was advised of the projections with regard to the safety net. That no doubt occurred. I am not quite sure when. I have no knowledge of how the health minister came to be informed of the situation regarding the safety net, but my advice would have been in the context of the senior ministers review in the preparation of the 2005-06 budget. Other members of the senior ministers group presumably would have been advised at a similar time.</p>	
F24	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 100 25/5/05	<p>Ms Hazell—There have been bills Nos 5 and 6 in the past. There were bills Nos 5 and 6 last year as well.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—What about in prior years? I am told that it is unusual in the sense—</p> <p>Dr Watt—We acknowledge that it is not usual; it is not the norm. Ms Hazell is right: it was the case last year as well. As to the previous case, we would have to take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 4/8/05
F25	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 101 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—I want to go back to the Medicare safety net issue to understand the finance department's understanding of how the health department was paying for the Medicare safety net when the costs exceeded projections. As discussed earlier, the cash and appropriation management model, or CAM, of AIMS maintains a record of annual appropriations passed by the parliament and the funds transferred to agencies against appropriations. Did CAM detect that the funds being transferred to pay for the Medicare safety net were likely to exceed the original costing?</p> <p>Mr Bowen—I picked up a couple of questions there. On the issue of how they could pay if the costs went up, the Medicare safety net is funded under a special appropriation—in other words, under an appropriation which is embedded in particular legislation, not the</p>	Answer received 30/9/05

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				<p>annual appropriations. On the issue of whether the CAM system would have picked up that matter, I would have to defer elsewhere. On the appropriation issue, it is part of a much broader appropriation, and we can give you the detail of that. On the issue of the CAM system, I think earlier answers would suggest that that would not have been identified.</p> <p>Ms Hazell—I would have to take on notice whether that particular estimate and the likelihood of the need for more funds above the estimate were identified. Special appropriations are based on estimates, and the CAM system records that estimate. It is only when it is likely that a draw-down will exceed that estimate that it triggers a need for a review of the estimate in the CAM system. Special appropriations are appropriations at law and, depending on the type, are not limited by dollar amounts.</p>	
F26	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 106 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—What is the general discount level that you have managed to achieve as a result of the arrangement?</p> <p>Mr Suur—I do not have that detail with me, but my recollection is that it is well in excess of 20 per cent, perhaps in the order of 30 per cent, but I will have to take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 4/8/05
F27	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 107 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Do you have a section 31 agreement with the Department of Defence?</p> <p>Mr Culhane—There is an agreement with the Department of Defence.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Do you know what sorts of issues are covered there?</p> <p>Mr Culhane—I do not have a copy of that agreement with me. I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 4/8/05
F28	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 110 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—The government would need to change its policy. Can we have an update on this issue, Dr Watt? It must be being raised in the context of consideration of selling Telstra.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I would need to take that on notice. We are not responsible for preparing the sale legislation. The sale legislation is being prepared by the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, and the minister for that department is the responsible minister.</p>	Answer received 4/8/05
F29	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 115 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—Could you take it on notice to provide me with the date—</p> <p>Senator Minchin—I will, sure, because I do like—</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—that you received it in your office?</p>	Answer received 30/9/05

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				<p>Senator Minchin—I am happy to do that because I like a quick turnaround.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—I know you do.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—I am happy to follow that up.</p>	
F30	DOFA	Sherry	F&PA 119 25/5/05	<p>Senator SHERRY—What was the approximate figure before the choice of fund legislation was announced?</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—Do you mean in the first year?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Let it take it through five years—if you have those figures.</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—I do not have them off the top of my head. But I think it after five years be around \$300 million. I am happy to provide the numbers we originally did, on the clear understanding that they were done before choice of fund.</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—That is fine.</p> <p>Mr Gibbs—I am happy to do that.</p>	Answer received 7/9/05
F31	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 95 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—Clearly, from the answers you have given me, he has the capacity to do that under the existing administrative arrangements. What were the levels of seniority for those three new positions?</p> <p>Mr Edge—I would have to take that on notice. We may be able to get the answer for you in the next little while. I am just not certain whether we can get it—</p> <p>Senator CARR—Thank you...</p>	Answer received 5/8/05
F32	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 96 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—I do not dispute that. What is the value of the consultancy?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—It may well be—and we will find this out—in the annual report.</p> <p>Senator CARR—So will you take that on notice and come back to me on that?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Yes. We will take it on notice, but hopefully we can get you the table tonight.</p>	Answer received 5/8/05
F33	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 96 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—I am interested to know where the shift has come after the election, why it has occurred and at what levels of seniority these new appointments have been made.</p> <p>Mr Edge—Okay. As I said, we can readily provide you with information on the variation between the 1 February and the 1 May numbers for this year.</p> <p>Ms Mason—The table attached to the question does allow one to work that out, but if you are asking for a summary of the seniority of</p>	Answer received 5/8/05

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				positions an officer will need to sit down and— Senator CARR—I am happy for you to take that on notice. I am not looking at any ambush here; I am simply trying to establish how the staffing structure works and what the overall costs are, which no doubt we will get to. Equally, I would be interested to know about the two officers who have had reductions in their allocations...	
F34	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 97 26/5/05	Senator CARR—I wonder if you can explain why it is that there have been these changes. That is the explanation I am seeking from you. I am also interested to know what the new positions are that have been created and at what levels. Senator Abetz—We will get that information for you. As to determining that, that is at the discretion of the Prime Minister. Senator CARR—Yes. When were they appointed? Could you tell me that? Senator Abetz—I think we can get that for you on notice as well.	Answer received 18/8/05
F35	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 98-99 26/5/05	Senator CARR—Okay. We will come back to that. What is the total annual cost of salaries and other remuneration benefits for the full staffing complement of the chart headed up 'Government personal staff as at May 2005'? Ms Mason—That is a question we would need to take on notice. It is actually a very difficult question to answer because it basically involves analysing the salaries and allowances of every single person listed, and these people do change from time to time, so there are ons and offs. Senator CARR—But we have a finite period from 1 May. That is the chart you have provided me with so I would like to know what the cost is. Senator Abetz—As at 1 May? Senator CARR—That is what it says there—1 May 2005. That is the chart you have given me. Could you do that and give me the equivalent year to date going back to 2001-02 so I can get a comparison? Is that possible? Ms Mason—Can I clarify your question so we make sure we get the data you are asking for? You are asking for it as at 1 May in each year since 2001? Senator CARR—Yes. I am looking for the variation in running the personal staff of the government over that period of time. Surely it will be roughly the same as for the opposition in that we have a ration of, I think, one to five.	Answer received 5/8/05

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F36	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 100 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—While I know you do not provide individual salary details, could I get a breakdown of how many of the above-the-range employees are employed in each of the individual ministerial offices?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—That would allow individuals to be identified, especially if there were only one particular person in a ministerial office on that sort of arrangement.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Are you saying you will not say where the persons who are receiving salaries above the salary range are located?</p> <p>Ms Mason—You asked an earlier question about what levels the people above the range are classified at, and we have undertaken to answer that on notice. If you put that together with information about the offices in which those people are employed, I think you would get to the point of being able to identify the individuals. So, we can give you one answer to those questions, but not both.</p>	Answer received 5/8/05
F37	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 101 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—That is very good. How does it compare with previous years, though? You have given me information as at 1 May, and I appreciate that, but how does that compare with previous years?</p> <p>Ms Mason—I am sorry, I do not have historical data in front of me.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Would you be able to do the same as I have asked before: go back to 1 May as of the previous three years—back to 2001?</p> <p>Ms Clarke—I do not think there is a problem there—I will take it on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/8/05
F38	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 101 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—I apologise. Yes, I do see that. Thank you for that. How many special advisers are currently employed as MOPS staff?</p> <p>Ms Clarke—There are nine government special advisers and one non-government special adviser.</p> <p>Senator CARR—How does that compare with recent years?</p> <p>Ms Clarke—I will have to take that on notice. I do not have historical data in front of me.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Can you do the same pattern for me, please, as before.</p> <p>Ms Clarke—Certainly.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Can you tell me where they are located.</p> <p>Ms Mason—We can give you the classifications and some historical data. We will give you as much as we can without risking identifying the individuals. The answers to some of the questions that you are</p>	Answer received 5/8/05

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				asking this evening have been given in previous estimates hearings. We can certainly draw out material from those previous hearings and also from our own records to give you the answers you want.	
F39	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 102 26/5/05	Senator CARR—Are you able to tell me what the cost of the consultancy was? Ms Mason—Not without taking it on notice.	Answer received 5/8/05
F40	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 103 26/5/05	Senator CARR—I cannot find Ben Morton or David Constantine in the government directory. Do those persons still work for the government secretariat? Senator Abetz—I will take that on notice. Senator CARR—Could you tell me, if they have left, when they left? Senator Abetz—Yes.	Answer received 18/8/05
F41	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 103 26/5/05	Senator CARR—Are you able to tell me if they have transferred within the government staffing? Could I ask how many of these staff were employed during the election campaign last year? Senator Abetz—You can, and I dare say we can provide you with a raw figure as to how many of the existing complement were engaged on 9 October. Is that what you want to know? Senator CARR—I would like to know whether they were employed during the federal election campaign. Senator Abetz—How many of those that are currently part of the GMS complement— Senator CARR—Yes, were employed in the federal election campaign. Senator Abetz—From whenever it was called until 9 October? Senator CARR—Yes. I am interested to know whether any of these staff were transferred to other locations during the election campaign. Can you tell me that? Senator Abetz—We will take that on notice. We can start asking about whether certain other staff were transferred to other locations. These people are employed at the behest of the employing members, ministers, leaders et cetera. I am not sure that we would necessarily want to go down that path but I will take it on notice.	Answer received 5/8/05
F42	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 103 26/5/05	Senator CARR—Thank you. Could I ask you whether Chris Fryar is still with the government members secretariat? Senator Abetz—I will take that on notice as well.	Answer received 18/8/05
F43	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 103 26/5/05	Senator CARR—Thank you. What is the total annual cost of running the government members secretariat?	Answer received 5/8/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
				<p>Senator Abetz—Corporate would be the normal place for that. So you want what?</p> <p>Senator CARR—I have an answer to question F17—everything has been provided. Senator Robert Ray asked the question on 17 February 2004. That is the 2004 figure, not 2005.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Right.</p> <p>Senator CARR—For the period 2002 to 2003, the cost for travel expenses, motor vehicle allowances, travel allowances, ministerial staff allowance, parliamentary staff allowance, salaries and administrative expenses was said to be \$958,786. What I would like to have is an updated figure, if I could. I would like to have it so I get an annual cost of the operations of this unit. Could I have it broken down in the same way—</p> <p>Senator Abetz—As it was in that particular answer?</p> <p>Senator CARR—Yes.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—All right. We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Do you have a figure here with you?</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Unfortunately, I do not. I thought I might have but I do not.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Is it possible to give me a time series on that? Do you have historical data on what the changes have been since 1996? Is that readily retrievable or not? Is it possible to get that?</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will have a look. We do not know how far back our data run goes. We will have a look.</p> <p>Senator CARR—Could I get it back as far as you can get it without—</p> <p>Dr Watt—Without excessive work.</p> <p>Senator CARR—excessive work or cost?</p> <p>Dr Watt—Sure.</p>	
F44	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 104 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—In terms of equipment, could I get a full list of equipment presently in the office, along with the cost of each item and the date of purchase? You must have an audit.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We would, but that is starting to become a heck of a lot of work. Why don't we—</p> <p>Senator CARR—But you must have an audited asset list.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I have no doubt we have an asset register. That will tell you what we have. It may not relate directly, however, to purchase price. Why don't we see what we can find? We might want to confine that to major equipment.</p>	Answer received 5/8/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
				<p>Senator CARR—Yes. Dr Watt—Clearly you are not worried about staplers and things like that. Senator CARR—No, I am not interested in petty stuff. There have been a series of questions asked over a number of years on this matter. I know the drill. I have read your material in the Hansard. But I would like to see what the level of equipment purchases have been, what equipment is there now and what the cost of provision has been. Are you able to provide that? Dr Watt—We will see what we can do. Senator CARR—I am talking about any significant changes. I do not want to know how many staplers have been bought. Dr Watt—The issue for us will be how far back we go and how deep we go into the detail. Senator CARR—Thank you. I would just like to know what that current asset list is. Dr Watt—The major asset list. Senator CARR—Thank you.</p>	
F45	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 105 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—I understand that Mr Hanke is not a member of the GMS. However, I see that he is still listed in the latest directory as being employed by Kevin Andrews. Is that right? Senator Abetz—When was the latest directory published? Senator CARR—April 2005. Senator Abetz—I will take that on notice. Senator CARR—It says, ‘Senior Adviser’ on page 102. Senator Abetz—I thought he had moved. Senator CARR—That is my point. Senator Abetz—I am not sure, but I will take it on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/8/05
F46	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 105 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—Has Mr Hanke taken leave? Senator Abetz—We can take that on notice as well. I have not seen him around the corridors of late, so the chances are he is in the Northern Territory.</p>	Answer received 5/8/05
F47	DOFA	Carr	F&PA 105 26/5/05	<p>Senator CARR—What is his registered home base? Senator Abetz—As to the details of all that, I am not privy to them and I will take all of that on notice. Senator CARR—Could you inform me as to what his registered home base is when he is with the Commonwealth? Senator Abetz—I will take that question on notice and I will give it consideration.</p>	Answer received 5/8/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
F48	DOFA	Faulkner	F&PA 106-7 26/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—I do not intend to ask the taxpayers. I am saying this because I am making it quite clear that I do not have a particular pecuniary interest in this because I happen to have a personal subscription to some of these publications. As I read the communication that Mr Edge has referred to, it appears to be perfectly okay for any member of parliament to subscribe to Crikey, Newmatilda or any other online publication—and there are many—using that allowance. I would appreciate you informing me whether that understanding, which a number of members of parliament have, is correct.</p> <p>Ms Mason—Circular 2005/17 signed by Mr Edge does talk about you being able to either continue with your current supplier of newspapers and periodicals or change to another supplier. It also goes on to say that, if you wish, you may subscribe to electronic internet based editions of newspapers and periodicals. I guess the answer to your question turns on whether publications such as Crikey would fall into the category of a newspaper or publication. It is not a question that we have been asked to date. It is one that we can reflect on and advise senators or members accordingly so that people can make informed decisions. But I think that, on the face of it, it is probably the case that those publications would fit into that category and would be permissible to purchase from the allowance, provided the appropriate documentation was available.</p> <p>Senator Abetz—Whilst we will take it on notice for a definitive answer, I must say my hunch would be that it would be allowed, because MAPS and I would not want to be getting into deciding whether a particular publication is an appropriate periodical or not in relation to these sorts of matters.</p>	Answer received 18/8/05
F49	DOFA	Faulkner	F&PA 110 26/5/05	<p>Senator FAULKNER—What is the compliance rate like in relation to security clearances?</p> <p>Ms Mason—I would need to take that question on notice and check.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—If you could, say, as of today's date indicate to us what the compliance rate is, what the longest outstanding period of time for a staffer is and what the longest acceptable period would be?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Yes. So if you could take on notice, as of today's date, what the compliance rate is. Could you also supply the rate for noncompliance—that is, how long have clearances been</p>	Answer received 5/8/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
				outstanding? I do not expect you to have that information at your fingertips tonight, but would you take that on notice and provide that? Ms Mason—Certainly.	
F50	DOFA (AGIMO)	Lundy	F&PA 121 26/5/05	Senator LUNDY—What costs were associated with the move? Mr Suur—I do not have those costs with me but there were fit-out costs involved. The rental is pretty comparable. I can get those figures for you. Senator LUNDY—Could you take on notice the details of the fit-out costs, the costs associated with the move, the rent paid formerly and the rental terms on the new lease? Mr Suur—Yes.	Answer received 4/8/05
F51	DOFA (AGIMO)	Lundy	F&PA 124 26/5/05	Senator LUNDY—How many departments are in Gatekeeper, how many are pending, and how many are out? Mr Grant—From recollection, the Health Insurance Commission and the Australian Taxation Office have accreditation under the Gatekeeper strategy. In addition, Customs and, I think, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations use Gatekeeper accredited suppliers for some of their activities. Off the top of my head, I cannot tell you any more. They are certainly the key users at this stage. Senator LUNDY—Can you take that on notice. Mr Grant—I could take that on notice.	Answer received 5/8/05
F52	DOFA (AGIMO)	Lundy	F&PA 124 26/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Could you just take on notice to do the best you can to try to allocate a cost against Gatekeeper. If you have access to the costs experienced by other agencies involved in the Gatekeeper authentication system, could you please provide those as well. I think some of those costs were in this report, but I cannot remember. Mr Grant—On the latter, I do not have access to those costs. In terms of our administration costs, I will get you something. Senator LUNDY—Okay. We will leave it at the administration costs...	Answer received 5/8/05
F53	DOFA (AGIMO)	Lundy	F&PA 128 26/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Which ones do you monitor? Can you provide that data to the committee? Mr Bowen—We could provide you with some examples. I will take that on notice. I cannot give the information to you tonight.	Answer received 4/8/05
F54	DOFA (AGIMO)	Lundy	F&PA 129 26/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Are you able to tell the committee what other projects you are monitoring?	Answer received 30/9/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
				Mr Bowen—I will take that on notice.	
F55	DOFA (AGIMO)	Lundy	F&PA 129-30 26/5/05	<p>Senator LUNDY—... Finally, I would like to turn to the issue of the publication of government documents and information. Some time ago there was quite a substantial cut to and the closure of the government bookshops, and the responsibility to produce those documents online became the charter of what is now AGIMO. What are the policies and protocols for the timely and accurate publication of and access to government documents?</p> <p>Mr Grant—I do not have the exact details with me. I can provide you with guidelines that we have in relation to that; I will do that. Perhaps I can put it into context. We have not moved all publications simply to online. In fact, what happened with the bookshops was that they were very seldom used to sell Australian government publications. There was a very low turnover. We looked at that and at who was buying them, and we thought there must be better ways. The reason they were not being used was that agencies were not forced to use the bookshops, and many were using other mechanisms. Customers were not going to the bookshops to buy government books. What we tried to do, in fact, was to look at the environment and put a much better mechanism in place to at least let Australians know what government is publishing and to make it easier to get those publications by having the online publications directory. I can give you a copy of the guidance relating to publications.</p>	Answer received 5/8/05
F56	AEC	Mason	Written	Attached	Answer received 5/8/05
F57	DOFA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F58	DOFA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/7/05
F59	AEC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 5/8/05
F60	Comsuper	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F61	CSS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F62	PSS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F63	CGC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
					4/8/05
F64	DOFA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F65	AEC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 10/8/05
F66	Comsuper	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F67	CSS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F68	PSS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F69	CGC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F70	DOFA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F71	AEC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 5/8/05
F72	Comsuper	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F73	CSS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F74	PSS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F75	CGC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F76	DOFA	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/7/05
F77	AEC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 5/8/05
F78	Comsuper	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F79	CSS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F80	PSS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F81	CGC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F82	DOFA	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
					30/9/05
F83	AEC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 5/8/05
F84	Comsuper	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F85	CSS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F86	PSS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 13/9/05
F87	CGC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/8/05
F88	DOFA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 4/7/05
F89	DOFA	Carr	Written	Attached	Transferred from EWRE committee 16/6/05 Due date: 18/7/05 Answer received 4/8/05

Please note that answers are due on 8 July 2005

Written QON

F56

Australian Electoral Commission

- 1) For each of the last four financial or calendar years for which this information is available:
 - a) what was the average number of sick leave days taken per full-time equivalent employee;
 - b) what was the average number of days of unscheduled absence (encompassing all types of leave) taken per full-time equivalent employee.
- 2) Does the agency collect, collate and analyse data about unscheduled absence and/or sick leave, for example, which days of the week that employees are away, reasons for absence, dates of absence, employee's age, gender, length of service and work unit location?
- 3) Does the agency record the number and/or percentage of working days lost due to unscheduled absence and/or sick leave in the Annual Report?
- 4) Does the agency record the cost of unscheduled absence and/or sick leave in annual financial statements?

F57**Outcome 1—Research on rate of return to Government funding**

Please provide copies of any research or studies undertaken or commissioned by the Department since 2000 which examine the rate of return to the Government or the economy as a whole from Government investment across different policy areas.

F58 to F63**Performance pay**

1. Is performance pay available under your department/agencies certified agreement?
 2. If so how many staff in your Department/Agency are eligible for performance based pay?
 3. Please provide a breakdown of performance pay awarded for this financial year to date including the following details:
 - (a) How many staff have received performance pay?
 - (b) What levels are those staff at?
 - (c) What gender, a breakdown please?
 - (d) How much has each staff member received?
 - (e) When did they receive it?
 - (f) What was the rationale for the awarding of performance pay in each instance?
 - (g) Did the Department/Agency head receive performance pay?
 - (h) How much?
 - (i) When?
 - (j) On what grounds?
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F64 to F69**Efficiency Dividend**

1. What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/agency this financial year and in the out years?
2. The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year's elections, what plans have you made to meet it?

3. What will this mean for staff numbers?
 4. Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?
 5. Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?
 6. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?
 7. How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?
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F70 to F75

AWAs

1. How many staff are covered by AWAs in your Agency/Department?
 2. Can you provide a break down of AWA's by gender and by classification?
 3. Can you tell me how many of the staff on AWA's are paid more than the band for their classification under the certified agreement?
 4. Why were these staff not simply promoted to a higher classification?
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F76 to F81

A follow-up to a question Senator Ludwig asked in December ...

1. Regarding the employees that your department or agency has identified as having:
 - (a) fluency
 - (b) accredited translator
 - (c) accredited interpreter
 2. Of these employees, please indicate what the department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the department and those whose were not?
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F82

Legal service expenditure

1. What amount did the Department spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?
 2. What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?
 3. What amount did the Department spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
 4. Does the Department have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?
 5. What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Department?
 6. Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Department in 2004/2005?
 7. In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
 8. Does the Department use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?
 9. If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
 10. If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?
 11. In 2004/2005 did the Department obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?
 12. In 2004/2005 did the Department procure any legal services under the thresholds required for 'covered procurements' (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.
 13. In 2004/05 did the Department contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.
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F83 to F87

Legal services expenditure

1. What amount did the Agency spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?
2. What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?
3. What amount did the Agency spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)
4. Does the Agency have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?

5. What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Agency?
 6. Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Agency in 2004/2005?
 7. In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?
 8. Does the Agency use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?
 9. If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?
 10. If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?
 11. In 2004/2005 did the Agency obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?
 12. In 2004/2005 did the Agency procure any legal services under the thresholds required for 'covered procurements' (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost.
 13. In 2004/05 did the Agency contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.
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F88

Evaluation and audit of CDEP

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations PBS says the Office of Evaluation and Audit (Indigenous Programs) will be conducting an evaluation and audit of the last two financial years of the Community Development Employment Program.

1. Please provide the terms of reference or any other guidelines applying to this evaluation.
 2. Are there any specific issues with the program that OEA will be examining?
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F89

Radioactive Waste Management

With regard to radioactive waste management, please provide the following details for all Commonwealth land sites (both on- and offshore): (a) the location; and (b) land size.
