

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2008
Department of Finance and Deregulation
Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

Outcome 3, Output 3.1.1

Topic: Mobile Personal Digital Assistants

Question reference number: F21

Type of Question: Handsard F&PA 38, 28 May 2008

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Senator Polley asked:

My question relates to senators' and members' entitlements as far as the PDAs are concerned. I am following up from previous questions in estimates in relation to why we had the two brands that we had available to us. What I am interested in is the number of those PDAs that have been returned and the number of senators and members who have resorted back to having to use mobile phones because the PDAs have been inadequate. I would also be interested to know—on the new PDAs, the HTC's, that have been handed out recently—the number of senators and members who have had the option of taking these up, and also the number of these that have had to be replaced, what the budget has been that was allocated for these PDAs and whether or not that was exceeded because of the problems associated with the PDAs.

Answer:

Nineteen (19) Senators and Members have returned their Mobile PDA (MPDA) and requested going back to using a mobile phone instead of a MPDA.

Three (3) Senators and Members are currently using the HTC Dual Touch. One Senator or Member has had to have a device replaced twice due to a fault. These replacements have occurred under warranty with no cost.

The budget for the implementation of the MPDA trial was \$500,000. The trial and subsequent full rollout of MPDA devices to all Senators and Members was achieved under budget. To date budget expenditure on the implementation of MPDA's has been \$257,579.60.