

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: 2, Output: 2.1

Topic: Medibank

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Senator Colbeck asked:

Dr Watt and Senator Sherry, you were saying there will be a report [Medibank's 2009-11 Corporate Plan] coming back to the relevant minister from Medibank Private, in due course - once they have done their calculations on the impact of the government's decision in the budget. Will there be a public disclosure of that information?

Dr Watt: That is something we will have to ask the minister.

Senator Colebeck: So are you happy to take that –

Dr Watt: We can take it on notice.

Answer:

The Corporate Plan cannot be publicly tabled as it would reveal commercially sensitive information which could prejudice Medibank's competitive position in the private health insurance industry and therefore be of detriment to the Commonwealth, as Medibank's owner. It is not normal practice to release the Corporate Plans of any Government Business Enterprises in whole or part for commercial reasons.

Therefore, we cannot undertake to provide a copy of the 2009-11 Corporate Plan.