

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 2, Program 1

Topic: Consultants

Question reference number: F37

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 96, 27 May 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

Number of Pages: 1

(a) Senator Coonan asked:

Can the department please confirm the total number of consultants it [sic] costs that have been incurred by all government agencies and departments from 1 July 2008 to 27 May 2009?

(b) Senator Coonan asked:

Is there any figure in the budget, or can you take me to it, that the government has estimated it will spend on consultants? Or is that not a figure that is amortised in such a way that you can dig it out?

Answer:

(a) Departments and agencies generally do not report expenditure on consulting or other contracts to the Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance). However, agencies are required to provide data on consultancy expenditure in annual reports.

Finance does not have the resources to review consultants expenditure reported in the annual reports of the 104 departments and agencies governed by the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. This would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

(b) There is no figure in the budget that estimates the level of consultancy costs. Data on estimated future consultancy costs is not collected.