

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10 (MAY 2009)

Index to Questions on Notice (QON)

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Note: the FPA Committee resolved that agencies provide answers to Questions on Notice by **Friday, 10 July 2009**.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F1	DFD/Minister	Coonan	5	Senator COONAN —Minister, do you know why? For the first time in living memory huge tax cuts were not even mentioned in the budget speech. Senator Sherry —I am happy to take it on notice. The Treasurer writes the speech. I certainly have no input into it.	Transferred to Treasury
F2	DFD/Budget	Coonan	9 & 10	Senator COONAN —So when was the department first asked to provide formal costings input and advice on that proposal that was announced on 7 April? Dr Grimes —I do not have a specific date and I would have to take the date on notice. But, as I indicated before, we had been working on the costings with the broadband department over a period of several weeks.	10/7/09
F3	DFD/Budget	Coonan	10	Senator COONAN —Okay. Can you run us through the breakdown of the \$43 billion? Dr Grimes —I cannot run you through the breakdown of the \$43 billion. The reason for that is many elements of that \$43 billion were based on material that would be commercial-in-confidence. The reason I say that is we relied partly on information that had been provided through the fibre-to-the-node tender process. In addition some elements of the costings would go to matters that are currently under consideration—for example, negotiations around Tasmania. Over and above that the broadband company itself is obviously going to be in the market eventually to procure services—satellites, for example, wireless—so there are some difficulties in providing a full breakdown in costs because some of those costs will go into matters that are properly commercial-in-confidence. We would be able to take that on notice and see what information we could provide you with.	01/10/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F4	DFD/Budget	Coonan	11	<p>Mr Saunders—The costings involved a range of assumptions about technologies and take-up rates and other things.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—What were they? What were the assumptions about the take-up rates?</p> <p>Mr Saunders—I do not believe we can disclose that for the reasons Dr Grimes just described.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—How can that possibly be commercially-in-confidence—the projected take-up rate for a project to build a network at taxpayers' expense?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—We can certainly take that question on notice and see what we can provide you with.</p>	10/7/09
F5	DFD/AMG	Coonan	13	<p>Senator COONAN—That is the old Aurora proposal, is it?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—It is not the old Aurora proposal. It draws on the Aurora/Tasmanian government proposal and has been adapted in the current negotiations being held with the Tasmanian government and in particular with Aurora. The details of that are for the communications department. In any case, they would be highly commercially sensitive at the present time, given that negotiations are presently underway. Our expectation is that therefore services will be most rapidly available in Tasmania. I could not give you a precise date as to when those services will be available, but we can certainly take that on notice and consult our colleagues in communications, who are the other half and joint shareholder of responsibility.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F6a	DFD/AMG	Cormann	14-15	<p>Senator CORMANN—I have a series of general questions to the department in relation to the conversion of Medibank Private to a for-profit business enterprise. Firstly, who initiated the conversion of Medibank Private to a for-profit business enterprise?</p> <p>Dr Watt—For about five years the issue has never really been off the table. As you would know, part of the privatisation process the previous government had set underway for Medibank Private was to convert to a forprofit organisation, and the enabling legislation put in place a mechanism for that, if memory serves me correctly. It is an issue that has been around for a long while. I said five years—I am guessing—but since 2004 anyway. In a sense it has always been there. If you are asking us who moved the issue from somewhere on the backburner to the front burner, I think Mr Lewis is right: I do not think we have an answer for you. We could undertake to see if we can get that.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Can you please take that on notice. I understand it has been on the table for a long time, but somebody would have made a decision, as you put it, to take it from the backburner back onto the front burner. Either it was Medibank Private making a fresh approach to the government or it was the government saying: ‘Look, we understand that you have been interested in this for some time. Why don’t we consider it at this point in time?’ I am quite keen to find out the answer to that.</p>	07/10/09
F6b	DFD/AMG	Cormann	15	<p>Senator CORMANN— ... When did you first provide advice to the government in relation to the conversion of Medibank to a for-profit health fund?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—I am not sure. I would have provided advice to the government in relation to a raft of issues with Medibank including the potential for conversion to for-profit, probably going back as far as November 2007.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Okay, thank you very much.</p> <p>Mr Lewis—Again, we could take that on notice.</p>	07/10/09
F6c	DFD/AMG	Cormann	15	<p>Senator CORMANN—As you are taking it on notice, if Medibank did indeed approach the government, did Medibank approach the government in relation to both conversion to a for-profit business enterprise and a sale, or was it exclusively in relation to the conversion to a for-profit business?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—I would need to check our records on that, but I do not have any recollection of the issue of the sale being raised.</p>	07/10/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F7	DFD/Minister	Cormann	16	<p>Senator CORMANN—But Minister Tanner’s view has actually hardened as he has gone along—and I am sure you are across the particular research paper I am talking about. He commissioned a Parliamentary Library research paper, which he released in September 2006. He made a statement that the government was not the beneficiary owner of Medicare Private fund assets and this position did not change after corporatisation in 1998. In the same media release—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—You are questioning the departmental officials about the minister’s stated views. I take you at your word that the quotes are accurate. I do not have them in front of me, nor do I know the source, but I will accept for the moment that they are accurate. I will have to take it on notice to the minister direct whether he has any response to the questions you are asking about the quotes you are referring to.</p>	16/7/09
F8	DFD/AMG	Cormann	17	<p>Senator CORMANN— ... My question is: did the department provide the minister with legal advice, or departmental advice, about who owns Medicare Private? Is that a matter that has been considered by the government given that it is central to what is being proposed at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—Yes, Senator.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—So you have provided advice?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—Yes.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Did that include legal advice, or was it merely departmental advice?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—There was legal advice as well.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Could we get a copy of the departmental advice to government about who owns Medibank Private?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—I would need to consult the minister in relation to that matter. It raises a raft of issues which are potentially commercially damaging or at legal—</p> <p>Dr Watt—Senator, we do not usually provide our advice to government.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—I much preferred Mr Lewis’s answer because—</p> <p>Dr Watt—I think my answer is the better one.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—And my answer is both. There are two grounds, and we will take it on notice.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F9	DFD/AMG	Cormann	23	<p>Senator CORMANN—I will check that with Mr Savvides. I will move on, just quickly, to the issue of the competitive neutrality of Medibank, which was also raised in the minister's press release. The minister said: ... the conversion from a not-for-profit entity would result in Medibank Private being on equal footing with major competitors in the private health insurance market. Can you explain, by way of an explanation of policy, what the government means by that?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—The concept of competitive neutrality is a concept and principle which has been agreed at COAG level—the Council of Australian Governments—and goes to the way in which government businesses should generally operate. It really just goes to equivalence of operation so that government business is not perceived to operate at an advantage to principal competitors. I could certainly provide you with a more formal answer on that, if you wish.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—Thank you very much, Mr Lewis. I would appreciate it if you could provide us with some additional information ...</p>	10/7/09
F10	DFD/AMG	Cormann	25	<p>Senator CORMANN—No, I did not even suggest that. But when I asked you whether the government considered the implications of this decision for the structure of the private health insurance market you said yes, and clearly moving the private health insurance market from 38 per cent for-profit to 62 per cent plus for-profit is accelerating the trend away from the not-for-profit mutual model to the for-profit model. So presumably the government has made a decision that that is something that it wants to see happen.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—These issues, I am sure, would have been considered and canvassed by cabinet and the minister. The department of finance has been providing appropriate advice and input, but at the end of the day the decision has been made by cabinet and the minister. I am happy to take on notice the general questions that you have been posing about implications and whether they were considered. I will take that on notice. Whether the minister is able to respond I do not know, but I am happy to take it on notice.</p>	10/7/09
F11	DFD/Budget	Coonan	31	<p>Senator COONAN—Did Finance estimate a costing of ongoing operating costs of the NBN?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—I would have to take that on notice because I do not have those details.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F12	DFD/Minister	Coonan	34	<p>Senator COONAN—Yes, indeed. Just as a matter of interest, has any thought been given—this is something for you, Senator Sherry—to the utility of having some sort of joint Senate estimates with both Treasury and Finance? I make the suggestion in all seriousness. To get a composite picture, in fairness—in terms of public accountability and general transparency of the estimates process—it seems to me that, rather than putting witnesses in positions where they have to assume responsibility over and over again, there could be some utility in having a joint sitting.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I have not thought about it. I think it is an issue for the Senate itself to determine.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Yes, I appreciate that. I just thought it was worth raising it with you.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I must say I have not thought about the approach you suggest. Given that I have sat in your position, I have occasionally had a touch of frustration. As the officials know, when you are asking Finance about a particular expenditure costing and—</p> <p>Senator COONAN—You are always very restrained, Senator Sherry.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—there can be a reference to the appropriate department. Whether, in that context, you could have some sort of joint sitting would be a matter for the Senate. I have not given it any consideration. I would want to consult with the appropriate ministers and so I would take that on notice. We will deal with this suggestion if it emerges in the Senate.</p>	10/7/09
F13	DFD/Budget	Coonan	36	<p>Senator COONAN—Can you take this on notice, please, and give me a detailed answer in relation to broadband—</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—It is in the <i>Hansard</i> transcript.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—about the mechanics of how you went about the costing process.</p> <p>Dr Grimes—Yes, we can do that.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—I am interested in the components—what you did.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Yes, we are happy to. There may have been something that the officers did not go into this morning that can be added—although I would be surprised—so we will certainly add to it on notice if there is further information.</p>	01/10/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F14	DFD/Budget	Coonan	37	<p>Senator COONAN—So you provided some costing in relation to West Metro?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—I would have to take on notice the question on the specifics that we provided there. From memory, it was a fixed amount of money for a feasibility study. We will confirm that if that detail is not—</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Is that the \$91 million?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—That is right.</p>	10/7/09
F15a	DFD/AMG	Ronaldson	41	<p>Senator RONALDSON—... Minister, before the last election you promised to have 50 per cent of the government fleet made up of environmentally friendly vehicles. How is that target looking in light of the answer to the question on notice?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I think you referred to a date of 2020 in your earlier remarks?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Yes.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I am happy to take on notice the question and provide an answer. However, I would note that we are still a long, long way from 2020.</p>	10/7/09
F15b	DFD/AMG	Ronaldson	42	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Of that 7,900 vehicles, can you take on notice which of those vehicle types are meeting the 10 out of 20 score? I presume the V8s, the petrol turbocharged vehicles and the undisclosed number of turbo diesels certainly would not be meeting that?</p>	10/7/09
F15c	DFD/AMG	Ronaldson	42	<p>Senator RONALDSON—How many of those vehicles are actually Australian made?</p>	10/7/09
F16	DFD/AMG	Ronaldson	43	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Regarding the vehicles that were identified in that answer that I was talking about—on the government vehicle fleet—where there was an Audi A4, nine Chrysler Voyagers, seven Mazda CX7s, two Subaru Imprezas, eight Volkswagen Golfs and a Peugeot 407, would you provide me with details about the operational need for those fully imported motor vehicles?</p>	21/7/09
F17	DFD/CAPS	Ronaldson	45-47	<p>Senator RONALDSON— ... Very quickly, Mr Burton, these are contracts between the department and Kelly Services. There are 11 contracts, all for the identical amount of \$30,000. Nine of the contracts have identical start and end dates: 18 December 2007 to 17 June 2008. Two of them have different dates: 19 December 2007 to 18 June 2008 and then 20 December 2007.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Mason—I do not have detailed information for you today, but we are appearing tomorrow morning.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We can provide that information then, Senator.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F18	DFD/Budget	Cormann	50 & 51	<p>Senator CORMANN—I will ask the Department of Health and Ageing about the purpose and what is proposed in terms of policy change. But if there will be efficiency gains—and I guess that this is within the purview of the Department of Finance and Deregulation to ensure because that is what the budget is seeking to achieve—why are there no changes to the forward estimates?</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho—I will have to take that on notice, Senator, but the intention is to ensure that the operation itself becomes more efficient. On the question of forward estimates I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—One possibility would be that more money would be going to the drugs. That is not something that you have any knowledge about?</p> <p>Mr de Carvalho—I will have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—I might put a whole series of other questions about this on notice. Obviously you have not got much awareness of what is involved.</p>	10/7/09
F19	DFD/AMG	Ryan	58	<p>Senator RYAN—Sure, and I will get to that in a minute. I have a couple of questions. The media at the time referred to consultancy fees for the sale totalling just over \$6 million, including \$2.75 million to Lazard Carnegie Wylie and \$3 million-plus to Freehills. The government assured the media at the time that those figures only applied if the sale went ahead. What I am interested in is: was any amount paid out in consultancy fees?</p> <p>Dr Watt—That would be best answered by Mr Lewis. They were consultants to the Department of Finance and Deregulation not to the ASC.</p> <p>Mr Lewis—We have those details. I am not sure I have them with me right now but we could certainly give you details in relation to expenditure in relation to each of the consultancies. There were payments made to each of our advisers for a fair amount of work that has been done over a number of years. Those contract payment amounts which were due and payable in the event of a sale, the completion payments, were not made; and the payments to the consultants were way lower than that. As I say, we can give you the precise numbers on that.</p>	10/7/09
F20a	ASC/AMG	Cameron	59	<p>Senator CAMERON—Is there any estimate of how much you contribute to the South Australian economy?</p> <p>Mr Bulmer—I can find out. I can take that on notice and give you information on that. There have been studies done on that.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F20b	ASC/AMG	Cameron	60	<p>Mr Bulmer—We currently have to meet the AWD requirements. In terms of employment, our numbers will increase to a little over 2,000. There will be over 800 people on the AWD project by about 2012.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—Is that direct employees?</p> <p>Mr Bulmer—That is direct employees, and of course there is a significant multiplier effect.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON—I was just going to ask you about the multiplier effect.</p> <p>Mr Bulmer—Again, I can give you specific figures from a study that has been done. I can provide that information.</p>	10/7/09
F21	Medibank/AMG	Cormann	65	<p>Senator CORMANN—So you have not provided Medibank’s advice to the government? You have got your own advice and the government has got its own advice, and there has not been a—</p> <p>Mr Savvides—I will have to take that one on notice. We might have done that. It might have been some time ago.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—And just to confirm, the advice you have got is that, although at present you are a not-for-profit fund—you are not a mutual—owned by the government, you are going to turn into a for-profit fund owned by the government ...</p>	10/7/09
F22	Medibank/AMG	Cormann	66	<p>Senator CORMANN—As part of your corporate plan, presumably, you will have the dividend policy of Medibank Private?</p> <p>Mr Savvides—I will have to take that on notice. We will have some understanding or assumptions about tax and dividend. I am not sure whether that is locked into a specific policy.</p>	10/7/09
F23	Medibank/AMG	Cormann	72	<p>Senator CORMANN—Can you take on notice whatever information you can provide us to quantify that risk. Last time you told us that your expectation with respect to the Medicare levy surcharge was a certain percentage. I would appreciate it if, on notice, you could provide us with that information.</p>	10/7/09
F24	Medibank/AMG	Bernadi	77	<p>Senator BERNARDI—I accept that. Would you be prepared to provide me with an idea of how prevalent you think fraud is across the private health insurance industry?</p> <p>Mr Savvides—I can take it on notice and provide you with a report that gives you greater insight into what components, whether they be dental or physio, are the source of the frequency and a bit of an understanding of the kinds of scale that we are talking about. I can provide that on notice.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F25	Medibank/AMG	Moore	77	<p>Senator MOORE—I have a question on notice because I do not want to hold this up. I am interested in the issues around privacy and the training methodology that you have for your staff members and also in whether there have been any instances—and whether there are records—of any privacy breaches or issues of that nature in your organisation for the last two years.</p> <p>Mr Savvides—I can call that up.</p>	10/7/09
F26	DFD/Budget	Coonan	78	<p>Senator COONAN—So the evening before the budget. I want to deal with Mr Tanner's budget efficiencies. He nominated \$1 billion of efficiencies achieved in the 2009-10 budget, because \$4 billion was obviously from last year's budget even though he ran it together. Can Finance provide a breakdown of the \$1 billion of efficiencies from government operations?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—I do not have the list with me, but we could take that on notice.</p>	15/7/09
F27	DFD/Budget	Coonan	79	<p>Senator COONAN— ... What are the total savings that are delivered by the expenditure review task force?</p> <p>Dr Watt—It is difficult to put a figure on it, partly because some things the task force worked on were subsequently taken over by others, some things the task force worked on were also worked on by departments, some things the task force worked on did not come to fruition initially but may have come to fruition later, but the savings were substantial.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Will you take that on notice and give a considered answer to that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will see if we can disentangle them for you.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—So that will be on notice ...</p>	10/7/09
F28	DFD/Budget	Coonan	80	<p>Senator COONAN—Do you have at your disposal the total savings from reforms to benefits? Do you have that to hand, or is that something that would take—</p> <p>Dr Grimes—I would not have it to hand. Again, we can take that on notice to prepare that for you.</p>	10/7/09
F29	DFD/Budget	Coonan	80	<p>Dr Grimes—From memory, there were some exemptions [to the efficiency dividend] that were provided and carded out.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Yes, I was just going to say that. Perhaps you could take on notice and give me an answer as to where the exemptions were and how it was applied over the year.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F30	DFD/Budget	Coonan	82	<p>Dr Watt—Certainly there are programs that grow faster than two per cent in real terms. There are a number of them. There are also some who grow more slowly.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Can I have a list of the ones that are exceeding two per cent?</p> <p>Dr Watt—We can provide that to you, but we might stick to the major ones rather than trying to chase—there are a large number of individual programs. We will find you the major ones.</p>	23/07/09
F31	DFD/Dereg	Coonan	86	<p>Senator COONAN—I am interested in outcomes here and I am not being critical of the effort or the intent or the value that might be achieved from this, but I would just like to try and get, for the purposes of Estimates—because that is my job—some idea of how well it is working.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We can give you a list of what has been done. What I suspect we will not find as easy to do is—as the minister was able to do in his example—list pages of regulation removed on everything, partly because we are part-way through it. But we can certainly give you a list of what has been done and what will be done in the coming months. That will give you some idea of what is happening.</p>	23/07/09
F32	DFD/Dereg	Coonan	89	<p>Senator COONAN—Okay, but that does not tell me what is actually happening. For example, could you take me through each of the areas—and there are 27 of them. This has been going since March, since there was this endorsement of the implementation plan, so we over a year into it What is happening, for example, with getting nationally consistent OH&S laws?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COONAN—So where is it actually up to? Do you know?</p> <p>Ms Page—I would prefer to take that on notice because it is quite a complex set of reforms and I would like to refer to the detail of that.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COONAN—What about the issue of product safety?</p> <p>Ms Page—The product safety one I think I would like to take on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Can you explain what is proposed with payroll tax harmonisation?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Page—Again, Senator, I would prefer to take that one on notice, to provide more detailed advice on that one.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F33	DFD/FMG	Coonan	92	<p>Ms Campbell—The review was undertaken by Mr Peter Grant. Mr Grant was previously a senior public servant and he undertook a review. He was assisted by an academic to have a look at the grants programs that have been put in place.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Has Mr Grant prepared a report?</p> <p>Ms Campbell—Yes, he did.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Can we have a look at the report?</p> <p>Ms Campbell—The report was generally advice to government, but—</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will see what we can do. It is not a public report; we will see what we can do. We can perhaps give you some of it, which might help.</p>	31/08/09
F34	DFD/FMG	Coonan	92	<p>Ms Campbell—At first when the government was looking at the changes that it wanted to make to the grants framework to ensure a level of transparency and accountability I think there was a requirement that a committee consider such a grant. Since that time, there has been a review of the grants framework ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COONAN—This is very interesting. Who was on the committee?</p> <p>Ms Campbell—I am not aware of that. We will have to take that on notice and get back to you. The preliminary committee when the government was first established?</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Was the committee made up of finance or other people? Who?</p> <p>Dr Watt—It was a ministerial committee. There are a few things we need to clarify and we will before we go down that road.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—You could appreciate that it sounds very like there was initially a requirement that grants were made in consultation with the minister for finance or that there had to be approval as opposed to simply notifying the minister of grants. That is what I want to know: was there ever an initial arrangement that was resiled from as a result of this review?</p> <p>Ms Campbell—We will take that on notice, Senator.</p>	31/08/09
F35	DFD Budget	Coonan	96	<p>Senator COONAN—I understand that there is this implementation study. I am just trying to be very clear and to give Finance an opportunity to be clear about Finance's role and what you did in relation to advice provided on this project. The minister has also said that the cost could be less if private companies contributed their assets. Has Finance made any assumptions about this and how sensitive is this final costing to this assumption?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—As I said earlier today, it is probably better that we take the details of the costings on notice, because they do traverse into areas that are potentially commercial-in-confidence, as we discussed earlier on ...</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F36	DFD/Budget	Coonan	96	<p>Senator COONAN—Did Finance costing include the costs of rewiring of any individual homes that may be necessary?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—Not that I am aware of but, once again, it may be best for us to take that on notice.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Remember it is fibre to the premises—not inside the premises.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Yes, I understand. It depends on a lot of things, of course. What kind of technology did Finance assume about the NBN? For example, did you assume a passive optical network or a point-to-point network or what?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—Once again, I think that would be appropriate for us to provide in material that we are taking on notice.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—How sensitive is the costing to, for example, that assumption as to what kind of technology is assumed?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—As you would appreciate, I think it is probably best for us to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—I am expecting a very comprehensive response on notice to these questions that will tell me all the assumptions you have made and exactly what you have plugged into this model.</p> <p>Dr Grimes—We will see what we can do, working within the constraints of commercial-in-confidence.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—I appreciate that, but there is probably not much, quite frankly, that is going to be all that critical, because it is an entirely new network and, apart from the existing architecture of the existing network—which is really not much to do with it, at least the way it is described—you are not going to find too much commercial-in-confidence. So, if you do wish to claim that any information is commercial-in-confidence, would you be kind enough to indicate the basis for the claim?</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will do that.</p>	01/10/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F37a	DFD/Budget	Coonan	96	<p>Senator COONAN— ... Can the department please confirm the total number of consultants it costs that have been incurred by all government agencies and departments from 1 July 2008 to 27 May 2009?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—We would not have that information. I doubt that we would be able to get that in a short period of time. It would be quite a large exercise, because of the sort of time frame you are talking of. We can take it on notice. I do not know whether you would be happy with a more natural reporting date where agencies may have the information or whether you want to specifically look at those dates?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Grimes—To get that information we would have to survey agencies. It may be that agencies do not have their systems set up in a way that they can precisely identify spending to 27 May. As you would appreciate, they probably work on a financial year basis.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Yes, all right.</p> <p>Dr Watt—For example, if you were to ask it for the financial year up to 30 June this year you might get a better quality answer.</p>	10/7/09
F37b	DFD/Budget	Coonan	96	<p>Senator COONAN—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?</p> <p>Dr Grimes—To the best of my knowledge, it is not a figure that we have in the budget papers. Someone will check and we will confirm that.</p>	10/7/09
F38a	DFD/Budget	Coonan	99	<p>Senator COONAN—The second reason is that the minister made a very bold claim that consultancy costs would be cut by \$350 million. I think I am quite entitled to ask how that is being done and whether in fact it happened.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Secondly, if I remember correctly—and I am happy to take some of this on notice—that comment was made when the minister was in opposition and before the government announced its two per cent additional efficiency dividend. I believe the minister—I think he said this last time I had a discussion with him on this; and I will confirm that—believes that the implementation of the efficiency dividend has acquitted that particular commitment.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F38b	DFD/Budget/Minister	Coonan	99	<p>Senator COONAN—That is very interesting because he attached to this press release a summary of Labor’s savings and in fact this was listed and highlighted as an item, and there was no reference to it being rolled up in any way as efficiency savings—</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Watt—I think the answer is—and, again, I am happy to come back on notice with an answer from the minister, subject to the minister being agreeable—that there were a number of iterations of Labor’s savings list, including the final one, which was put out on election eve, and by that stage there had been, instead of a series of individual savings—</p> <p>Senator COONAN—He had gone back on this and added in something else.</p> <p>Dr Watt—I think, rather, it had all become subsumed by the two per cent efficiency dividend.</p>	10/7/09
F38c	DFD/Budget/Minister	Coonan	100	<p>Senator COONAN—All right. Can you take on notice and point out to me where there have been savings of \$350 million in consultancies in the efficiencies, as he claimed?</p> <p>Dr Watt—Again, I think he would say that they are incorporated, but I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	10/7/09
F39	DFD/AMG	Coonan	100 & 101	<p>Senator COONAN—Can you identify any instances where the government or the department have provided exemption for a government agency or a department so that they do not have to use the established coordinated procurement contracting for particular properties or services?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COONAN—I realise it was a broad question, and it was intentionally so. I invite you to give me a list of exemptions and perhaps the reason.</p> <p>Dr Watt—We will see what we can do.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Is that: yes, you will take it on notice?</p> <p>Dr Watt—Yes, we will take it on notice. That one is easier than some of the others we have taken on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Also if you could indicate how temporary ‘temporary’ is—</p> <p>Dr Watt—The length of time the exemption is for.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F40	DFD/AGIMO	Coonan	105	<p>Senator COONAN—Your UEFO showed savings from Gershon and they are set out as you would be very well aware for 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, totalling out in 2011-12 at \$391.4 million. What is the breakdown of these savings by agency?</p> <p>Ms Steward—I will invite my colleague, John Sheridan, to address that.</p> <p>Mr Sheridan—In the first year 2009-10, \$109.42 million was reduced in budgets, spread across some 51 agencies. We have the figures here broken down by agency.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Perhaps you could provide them as a list so that I can see the agencies. Could you also indicate just in the interests of time so that I do not keep you here all night what is referable to what agency? In other words for a particular contract or saving, how it that attributed to each particular agency?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan—We have a list by agency of how much money. The initiatives taken by agencies to reduce those things are quite detailed. It is quite a detailed list.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—All right, if that could please be provided.</p>	10/7/09
F41a	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	108 & 109	<p>Senator RYAN—With respect, Ms Steward, I am going to ask a few specific questions now and I would like you to consider them in the context of those first four words of clause 17, specifically given that you seem to be reading them in combination rather than with the ‘notwithstanding’ word having much weight. I am interested in when was the application for the website ‘buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au’ submitted and processed?</p> <p>Ms Steward—Senator, I would have to get the exact date for you. I do not have that here but I could get that for you.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F41b	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	108	<p>Senator RYAN—I would like you, if possible—I am trying to find a way to phrase this because I find the answers quite surprising—to come up with an answer as to whether or not you would read clauses 16 and 17 jointly or whether your office is of the view that the first four words of clause 17 about policy actually override the aspiration outlined in clause 16, if there were a clash. I could have easethesqueeze.gov.au, not that that happened, or kevin07.gov.au. They may be something that conveys a particular government program, but they would surely breach clause 17, which says the name must not express a political statement. I would like to know how your office would read such things. It surprises me that you do not read a Labor Party policy that talks about building an education revolution as expressing a political statement. That is not a government announcement; it was a Labor Party policy before they took office dated January 2007. That does not concern you at all?</p> <p>Ms Steward—Again, I think specifically in terms of the domain name it referred directly to the education program that was being undertaken and I think it would be quite reasonable to expect it did relate to that.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—Anything can be the domain name if it is a government announcement and meets the requirements of clause 16 and does not use the word ‘Labor’?</p> <p>Ms Steward—A domain name can be registered if it meets the conditions and the clauses set out in the guidance.</p> <p>Dr Watt—Why don’t we see if we can get you an answer on notice to that question.</p>	10/7/09
F42	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	108	<p>Senator RYAN— ... Have you rejected any domain names?</p> <p>Ms Steward—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	10/7/09
F43	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	108	<p>Senator RYAN—I would like to know if your office had any discussions with ministerial officers with respect to the naming of domains either before or after applications were submitted.</p> <p>Ms Steward—Again, I would have to take that on notice.</p>	10/7/09
F44	DFD/Future Fund	Bernadi	119	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Could you please tell me the assumptions, over the longer term, that you put into your model about global economic growth?</p> <p>Mr Costello—Because of the sensitivity of the answer to that I would like to take that on notice.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F45	DFD/CAPS	Abetz	3	<p>Senator ABETZ—There are two brief areas that I have questions about. First of all, the 1300 numbers that are allocated to MP’s offices are a great facility—especially for senators, who cover a whole state—people can ring for the one charge. It has been brought to my attention in recent times that the 1300 numbers only operate from a landline and not a mobile phone. It was brought to my attention because in the state of Tasmania, that I seek to represent, the state government also has 1300 numbers; but they allow mobile phone calls to connect with a 1300 number, whereas the Commonwealth does not. I just hope officials do not tell me that whilst I was Special Minister of State I imposed such a condition.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ms Mason—I am not aware of that particular issue having been raised with us previously, but we will examine it.</p>	10/7/09
F46	DFD/CAPS	Abetz	4 & 5	<p>Senator ABETZ—In that case, can I draw to your attention, courtesy of the <i>Examiner</i> newspaper of Tuesday, 5 May 2008 ‘Parliamentary vehicle was protruding onto Batman Highway, court told’, and another heading ‘Pensioner sued over Campbell car smash’. It is quite a sizeable article. I will not trawl it all through the <i>Hansard</i>, but it is there for you to have a look at. It is quite obvious that there has not been much departmental involvement in this, if any</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I do not know what facts, if any, are in dispute and cannot assist you with that. I am just being cautious, given that you have indicated to us that there is ongoing litigation.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I can understand that caution and if MAPS can come back with whatever information they can, that would be helpful.</p>	10/7/09
F47	DFD/CAPS	Ronaldson	6	<p>Senator RONALDSON—How many specific requests for a Prius would you receive each week?</p> <p>Mr Sweeney—I do not have that information.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Could you take that on notice for me, please?</p> <p>Mr Sweeney—I could take that on notice, yes.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—As to the question you took on notice before, perhaps in the last 12 months might be an appropriate time frame.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F48	DFD/CAPS	Ronaldson	8	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Minister, there was an article on Crikey recently which indicated that Qantas staff were somewhat surprised to see six of Mr Swan’s staff returning from London in first class. Are you aware of that article?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—No, I was not aware of it, but I am glad that you have drawn it to my attention.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Given the current economic situation, do you think it is reasonable for six ministerial staff to fly first class from London to Australia?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—The first point to be made is that, while I accept that you are accurately reflecting what was recorded on the Crikey website, I do not know what the situation was with the travel. Even though it might not specifically be a matter for this department, I am certainly happy to establish the facts for you. I would prefer to deal with facts, though. I do not know what they are, but we will try and find them out for you if you would like me to go down that track.</p>	10/7/09
F49a	DFD/CAPS	Ronaldson	21	<p>Senator Faulkner—...What I am more than happy to do in this circumstance, given that you have widely canvassed this issue this morning, is ask the department to advise me on this matter further. I can respond to any brief from the department. That seems to me to be a much more appropriate course of action than me writing in the terms that you have requested. When any of these issues come up in the media, in parliament or in parliamentary committees, I think it is reasonable that departments be asked to closely examine them and to brief ministers on them. I am more than happy to take that course of action.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—I appreciate your offer, but given the serious nature of these allegations why would it take two hours of examination in relation to this matter for you to ask the department to conduct an investigation?</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F49b	DFD/CAPS	Ronaldson	24	<p>Senator RONALDSON—What was the wording of your request, Minister?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I asked the department if they would brief me on the circumstances surrounding the Senator McLucas matter. If you are going to ask me a follow-up question on whether I did this by formal memorandum, I believe not. I made my request through the appropriate channels.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—When was that request made? That was made verbally, wasn't it?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—Senator, I do not have that date with me. I will try to provide that for you.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Who did you speak to?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—I made my request, as I do on these matters, through the departmental liaison officer. I will find the date for you.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—So the departmental liaison officer spoke to someone in the department?</p> <p>Senator Faulkner—It would be followed through in the normal course of events.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Who did the DLO speak to?</p> <p>Ms Mason—Senator, we would have to take that on notice and check the audit trail on how that request came to us. But I can confirm that, before receiving a request from the minister to examine the matter, the department was already examining it.</p>	10/7/09
F50	DFD/FeSG	Polley	27	<p>CHAIR—Could you give us an update as to how that rollout is progressing, because there are some really lengthy delays in some of our offices in accessing material.</p> <p>Mr Quester—I may have to take that on notice. Officers in the department are watching this, so, if they can get that information up to me, I will get them to do that, but if they do not have it on hand I may have to take that on notice.</p>	10/7/09
F51	DFD/FeSG	Ryan	28	<p>Senator RYAN—I am not sure whether it is appropriate to ask you to chase up the issue of the views of the Parliamentary Library on the current network infrastructure and speeds. I appreciate that you have probably had formal consultations with them, but informally staff have been told that they should not try to access particular services.</p> <p>Mr Quester—We do meet with DPS on a regular basis so that we can have those discussions.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F52	DFD/FeSG	Polley	31	<p>CHAIR—Just further in terms of the features that we currently are entitled to, could you tell me whether or not through the BlackBerry the Google Map feature is available—and, if not, why it isn't when in fact that is a very useful tool when you are travelling to appointments and finding your way as part of your duties and responsibilities?</p> <p>Mr Quester—Offhand, I cannot tell you if it is available or the reasons behind that. I will be able to get that information but I will probably have to take it on notice ...</p>	10/7/09
F53	AEC	Bernardi	37	<p>Senator BERNARDI—I would be interested in the long-term trend with regard to these. Clearly you must have maintained some data over more than three years. Could you table that for us?</p> <p>Mr Killesteyn—We can take that on notice, yes. Would you care to nominate how many years you would like?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Killesteyn—The Melbourne centres opened in 1990, so I will attempt to go back to that point.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—What about Adelaide?</p> <p>Mr Killesteyn—Adelaide was opened in 1999, so we will attempt to go back to those two dates.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—There you go; there is a start. That will be terrific. Thank you.</p>	10/7/09
F54	AEC	Ronaldson	38	<p>Senator RONALDSON—What was the refurbishment cost? What was the breakdown of that?</p> <p>Mr Killesteyn—I will have to take that on notice.</p>	10/7/09
F55	AEC	Bernardi	41	<p>Senator BERNARDI—So there would be no staff savings?</p> <p>Mr Killesteyn—Those people who are ongoing employees of the AEC network—for example, those who have been managing the centres—have all been offered continuing employment inside the AEC. It is only the contracts for the contracted teachers who were employed on a contract basis for a specific number of hours which will not continue after 30 June.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Could you detail the value of those contracts?</p> <p>Mr Killesteyn—The contracts for the teachers delivering—</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Killesteyn—I will take that on notice.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F56	AEC	Ronaldson	41	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Sorry, just quickly: what were the relocation costs? The refurbishment cost was a million dollars; what were the relocation costs to Lonsdale Street?</p> <p>Mr Killesteyn—I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Thank you.</p>	10/7/09
F57	AEC	Fifield	45, 46 & 51	<p>Senator FIFIELD—Didn't the AEC receive some legal advice some time before the 2004 election which called into question the particular circumstances in which members and senators could be enrolled at an address other than where they actually lived?</p> <p>Mr Pirani—Not that I am aware of.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—I had a recollection that there was.</p> <p>Mr Pirani—I will take that on notice, but I do not recall specific advice.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—According to the section that you referred to, could a member or senator, for instance, have their electorate office as their enrolled address?</p> <p>Mr Pirani—No.</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—Presuming that the place of enrolment is not where you live, what is the address for where you are enrolled? Or are you just deemed to be on the electoral roll in a particular division but without an address?</p> <p>Mr Pirani—I will take that one notice. The provision in the act is not that clear in relation to that. I do recall that I have read something that appeared to indicate that you could not have you electoral office if it was not a place where a person was entitled to live, and so that would be inappropriate. But I would prefer to take that on notice while I just check on this.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FIFIELD—If you could, I would be interested as to whether a member or senator is entitled to have a virtual address—sort of floating in the ether—whether the entitlement is to just be on the electoral roll in the division in which you live without any reference to an address.</p> <p>Mr Pirani—I will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—When you are providing that, can you give us advice, please, in relation to your ruling as to what must be nominated—whether it must be your actual address where you live but you can be listed on another roll using that actual address.</p>	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F58	AEC	Fifield	50	Senator FIFIELD —Thank you for that. Commissioner, has the AEC done any work to establish what the cost would be if the arrangements at the 2007 election for the 29 sites were expanded to one for each federal electorate, 150 sites? I assume that— Mr Killesteyn —The answer is no; we have not done any work to estimate it. I can certainly take it on notice, but I would suggest that it is a large cost.	10/7/09
F59	AEC	Ronaldson	52	Senator RONALDSON —Are you aware that, according to the <i>Age</i> , it was stated that this large union donation to the ALP's election war chest was explicitly contingent upon a promise from the Prime Minister to eliminate the ABCC? Mr Pirani —I am in aware that was stated in that media report, yes. Senator RONALDSON —Did you investigate that? Mr Pirani —I was not aware that there was any allegation of a breach of the Electoral Act that would have given me grounds to investigate it. ... Mr Pirani —Can I take that on notice, and I will reread the article. I can advise you that at this stage I have not conducted an investigation into that issue.	10/7/09
F60	AEC	Ronaldson	53	Senator RONALDSON —Just very quickly, Mr Pirani—and I promise that I will finish on this note, Madam Chair—did the request for advice in the McLucas affair come formally, informally or via a DLO? Was it in writing? Who was it communicated to, and by whom? Mr Pirani —I would have to take all of that on notice. I do not have that with me and, indeed, I was not in the country when the original brief was provided. We do act proactively. I regularly go through the media clips of a morning to see if there are any issues that may be raised, particularly when parliament is sitting, so that we can have, hopefully, a question time brief prepared to deal with these issues. But I will take that on notice to see the basis on which the question time brief was prepared.	10/7/09
F61a	AEC	Bernardi	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F61b	AEC	Bernardi	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F61c	AEC	Bernardi	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F61d	AEC	Bernardi	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F61e	AEC	Bernardi	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F61f	AEC	Bernardi	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F61g	AEC	Bernardi	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F62a	DFD/AMG	Cash	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F62b	DFD/AMG	Cash	Written	See attached below	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F62c	DFD/AMG	Cash	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F62d	DFD/AMG	Cash	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F62e	DFD/AMG	Cash	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F62f	DFD/AMG	Cash	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F63a	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F63b	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F63c	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F63d	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F63e	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F64a	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F64b	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F64c	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F64d	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F64e	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F64f	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F65a	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F65b	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F65c	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F65d	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F65e	DFD/AGIMO	Ryan	Written	See attached below	Tfr. to Treasury
F66a	AEC	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F66b	AEC	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F66c	AEC	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F66d	AEC	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F66e	AEC	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F66f	AEC	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F66g	AEC	Ryan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F67	DFD/Budget	Coonan	Written	See attached below	07/10/09
F68a	DFD	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F68b	DFD	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Comments/date answer received
F69	DFD/AGIMO	Coonan	27/5 p105	<p>Senator COONAN—So at the moment we have no commitment as promised to a Commonwealth internal audit and an immediate external audit of Commonwealth procurement policies?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take that on notice.</p>	10/7/09
F70	ASC	Ryan	27/5 p59	<p>Senator RYAN—Thank you. I was just trying to get on top of that. At the time,. the Minister for Finance and Deregulation said that the current economic climate presented a significant risk to the sale of the ASC. Could you go into more detail as to why this sale, which had been progressing over a number of years and which had incurred quite reasonable costs, was pulled at the last minute?</p> <p>Senator SHERRY—Other than to reinforce the comment and observation of the Minister for Finance, I would have thought that in the current climate the sale of almost any asset has been particularly difficult to realise what would be regarded as a reasonable value. This issue has come up in a range of contexts. It is because of the global financial crisis both here and internationally. Beyond that, the government made a decision. The minister has referred to the global financial crisis. I cannot add anything new. I am happy to take it on notice and look beyond that which has been publicly referred to. There are other reasons, and that is perfectly understandable in the current climate.</p>	10/7/09
F71	DFD	Coonan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F72	DFD	Coonan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F73	DFD	Coonan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F74	DFD	Coonan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
F76	DFD	Coonan	Written	See attached below	10/7/09

Written QoNs

F61(a-g) (BERNARDI)-AEC

- a) Has the AEC received any complaints relating to the electoral roll in State electorate of Fisher in South Australia?
- b) If so, when were the complaint(s) received and what was the nature of the complaint(s)?
- c) Were these complaint(s) investigated and if so what was the outcome of this investigation?
- d) What evidence was collected during any investigations into the complaint(s)?
- e) Have the person(s) about whom the complaint was made been interviewed or contacted about the complaint by any officer of the AEC?
- f) Have the complainant(s) been advised of the status and/or outcome of their complaint?
- g) Has the AEC recommended any further action in regard to the complaint(s) above?

F62(a-f) (CASH)-DFD/AMG

- a) In October 2007 the then Opposition Leader (and now Prime Minister) announced that a Rudd Labor Government would help ease the housing affordability crisis in Australia by releasing surplus Commonwealth land. How much surplus government land (or any land for that matter) has been released for new housing since the election of the Rudd government?
- b) How many housing lots have been created as a result of the release of this land? Geographically where has this land been released?
- c) How many houses have been built as a consequence of the implementation of this Labor election commitment?
- d) In February, the Committee was informed that the Department of Defence had withdrawn two significant sites in Sydney from sale. Does the Government still intend to proceed with the sale of land at West Wattle Grove and Schofields.
- e) The response provided specifically for West Wattle Grove mentions that the Commonwealth's requirements for this site were being reassessed. What part of the requirements are being re-assessed? The need to sell the land or the requirement that the land be sold for housing?
- f) In February the CSIRO was in the process of marketing for sale a site at Indooroopilly in Brisbane. Has this sale progressed any further? If so, is the Department able to advise the Committee as to whether the sale is conditional upon future use for residential housing?

F63(a-e) (RYAN)-DFD/AGIMO

- a) How many '.gov.au' domain names at the Australian Government level (e.g. example.gov.au) have been registered since 3 December 2007?
- b) What is the domain name for each, and to which Department or Agency does each belong?
- c) What has been the cost associated with each domain name registration?
- d) How many hits has each site received since 3 December 2007?
- e) What is the cost of hosting these domains and how are these costs met?

F64(a-f) (RYAN)-DFD/AGIMO

For the following domain names:

- <http://www.buildingtheeducationrevolution.gov.au>;
 - <http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au>;
 - <http://www.digitaleducationrevolution.gov.au>;
- a) When and by which Department was each application lodged?

- b) When and by whom was each application checked against the Eligibility and Allocation Policy?
- c) At any stage, were concerns raised by AGIMO or its officers that any of these domain names might be in breach of Rule 17 (v) of the Eligibility and Allocation Policy of the gov.au Domain Policies?
- d) Which domain names were flagged as potentially in breach of Rule 17 (v)?
- e) Was this concern raised with the relevant Minister or his or her office?
- f) Who in your office raised this with the relevant Minister or his or her office?

F65(a-e) (RYAN)-DFD/AGIMO

- a) When was the grocerychoice.gov.au domain name registered?
- b) Which department was an application for registration lodged by?
- c) I understand grocerychoice.gov.au's operations have been handed over to the non-government organisation CHOICE. Is grocerychoice.gov.au still registered as a government domain name?
- d) How much has it cost to keep grocerychoice.gov.au registered as (including administrative and related expenses) a government domain name from the time it handed its operations over to CHOICE?
- e) How many hits did the grocerychoice.gov.au site receive from the time it was launched to the time it was handed over to CHOICE?

F66(a-g) (RYAN)-AEC

- a) What is the expected total cost in the 2008-09 financial year of conducting the regular internal officer and delegate elections for employee associations registered under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, by:
 - a. Each national employee association
 - b. Each state/territory or other sub-branch of a national employee association
- b) What is the expected total cost in the 2008-09 financial year of conducting the regular internal officer and delegate election for employer associations registered under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, by:
 - a. Each national employer association
 - b. Each state/territory or other sub-branch of a national employer association
- c) What is the estimate of the total cost of elections for the 2009-10 financial year for:
 - a. Employee associations
 - b. Employer associations
- d) What is the in expected total cost in the 2008-09 financial year of administering protected action ballots under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*?
- e) How much of this cost was met by:
 - a. Taxpayers
 - b. Registered employer associations
 - c. Registered employee associations
 - d. Other organisations (eg employers)
- f) What is the estimate of the cost in the 2009-10 financial year for protected action ballots?
- g) Is the Commission projecting a change in the number of protected action ballots to be conducted in the 2009-10 financial year compared to the 2008-09 financial year?
 - a. If so, what is its forecast?
 - b. How does this differ from the expected number and cost of ballots in 2008-09 and the actual number and cost in 2007-08?

F67 (COONAN)-DFD/Budget

Would the Department of Finance and Deregulation supply all costing information it has on the “Student Income Support” measures in “An Innovation and Higher Education System for the 21st Century” package that is in the 2009-10 Budget Paper No 2? The costing information needs to include all working documents that show what assumptions and projections were used to agree to the costings that appear in the 2009-10 Budget Paper No 2.

F68(a-b) (RONALDSON)-DFD

- a) Can you provide the Committee with an updated estimate of annual costs of operation of the CCSTU, including salaries, travel expenses, ministerial and parliamentary staff allowance, administrative expenses, and other?
- b) Can you provide an update on any assets that may have been added to Suite MG-3 since October 2008?

F71 (COONAN)-DFD

Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any guidance notes/training/education to government procurement officers in departments and agencies to support the uptake and adoption of the revised Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines?

F72 (COONAN)-DFD

Has the Department of Finance and Deregulation provided any guidance about the provisions pertaining to limiting a contractor's liability to the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines (provision 6.15), in particular about the requirement for the development and implement of a risk management plan.

F73 (COONAN)-DFD

How is the Department of Finance and Deregulation monitoring compliance across governments departments and agencies as to the adoption and implementation of the revised Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines?

F74 (COONAN)-DFD

How is the Department of Finance and Deregulation monitoring compliance across governments departments and agencies as to the adoption and implementation of the risk management and liability provisions?

F76 (COONAN)-DFD

Can the Department of Finance and Deregulation give an update as the steps it has taken to implement the deregulation agenda?