

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2009

Question: PM62

Topic: Economic Stimulus Plan website - use of the words 'debt' and 'deficit'

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 26 May p56

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

Number of pages: 1

Senator RONALDSON-Thank you very much. Mr Mrdak, are you aware whether on that very substantial website, which I would view as being more about propaganda than information-but that is a comment not a question-the word 'debt' is used at all?

Mr Mrdak-I would have to check. In which context?

Senator RONALDSON-The word at all-any reference to government debt.

Mr Mrdak-I would have to have a search done of the website.

Senator RONALDSON-I would be interested for you to come back and let me know whether you could find it, because my checking of it indicates there is no mention at all of the word debt. What about the word 'deficit'? Do you know how many times that appears?

Mr Mrdak-Not readily, but I am happy to do a search in relation to that.

Answer: The Department has done a search of the website. The word 'deficit' is mentioned three (3) times within the context of the Treasurer's Note (Monday 27 May), one (1) time in the context of the Treasurer's Note (Monday 4 May) and three (3) times on *The Plan* page of the Economic Stimulus Plan website. The word 'debt' is mentioned five (5) times within the context of the Treasurer's Note (Monday 1 June) on the Economic Stimulus Plan website.