

**Australian Government****Department of Finance and Deregulation**

Contact: John Grant
Telephone: 02 6215 2855
e-mail: john.grant@finct.net.au

Ms Christine McDonald
Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms McDonald

Senate Estimates Committee Hearing of 27 May 2010 - Clarification

I am writing to clarify responses that the Department provided to Senators Ronaldson and Xenophon in relation to the timeframe for tabling advice in respect of an exemption from the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by Australian Government Departments and Agencies* (Guidelines) during the Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee Senate Estimates hearings on 27 May 2010.

On Pages 6, 10 and 20 of the Proof of Hansard, there is discussion about the process of granting an exemption from the Guidelines and the timeframe for reporting the granting of an exemption to the Parliament.

I confirm that the process is that the Minister advises the Parliament and the Independent Communications Committee (formerly the Auditor-General) when an exemption has been granted. I also confirm that, as advised to Senator Xenophon (page 20), there is no set number of days for reporting the exemption. However, I also indicated that the period for the Ministerial Statement to be transmitted to the Senate is a few days. Having reviewed our records, I wish to advise that the period for the Ministerial Statement to be transmitted to the Senate historically has been up to a month.

I relied on recollection, rather than fact. I am pleased to correct the record.

Yours sincerely

John Grant
First Assistant Secretary
Procurement Division
9 June 2010