

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-11 (MAY 2010)

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, 9 July 2010**.*

*the FPA Committee resolved that the answered to QON F126 be provided by **Wednesday, 1 September 2010**.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F1	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 10	Senator RYAN—Was the department's role the same—costings? Mr Tune—Yes and advice. Senator RYAN—Was the timeline the same? Mr Tune—Yes. Senator RYAN—So nothing before January 2009? Mr Tune—On the BER? Senator RYAN—On the BER. Mr Tune—I don't think so. If I can take that one on notice but I think I am right in saying that.
F2	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 13	Senator RYAN—I am not disputing that the department of finance gave its best estimate at the time. I am trying to explore the meaning of what the Auditor-General has couched in auditors' language that from the time of the original decision the ministers were aware that there was likelihood that an estimates variation may be required to provide more funding. There was no formal advice from your department to that effect. Is that what you said earlier? Mr Tune—No, I do not think so. I could check the record and take it on notice, if you like. Senator RYAN—I would appreciate that if there was advice you could tell me when an estimates variation was necessary.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F3	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 17	Senator RYAN—While we are doing that I have a couple of other questions that are vaguely related that you might be able to answer at the table. You had about a week, you have said earlier, to cost this? Mr Tune—Yes, I think I said I would confirm that, but that is approximately right.
F4	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 21	Senator RYAN—Could you please characterise the sort of regularity and depth of your discussions with DEEWR following the approval of the reg 10 order and prior to the announcement by the government of the extra funds being allocated? Mr Tune—I certainly don't have a chronology. Senator RYAN—Could we get a chronology? Mr Tune—I do not know if we could. I can have a look. But there were certainly discussions going on, as I mentioned to you. If I can characterise it in general terms I think— Senator RYAN—I am interested in how involved the Department of Finance and Deregulation was in providing advice on the extra allocation. You had a week to do the original costings. We have had to throw in an extra \$1.7 billion—more than 10 per cent—within months of the original appropriation. So how involved were you subsequent to that? Was it regular meetings? Mr Tune—I could not tell you. I do not know. I am pretty sure there was regular contact. Senator RYAN—Is there someone in the Department of Finance and Deregulation who can? Mr Martine—We are just trying to track someone down.
F5a	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 24	Senator RYAN—Did the department express concerns about what I might broadly describe as supply side issues in that it would lead to a significant growth in this industry in a very short period of time? Did the department express concerns about the viability of that being performed or undertaken in a safe or responsible manner? Mr Tune—No, I don't think so. Senator RYAN—If the department says otherwise, I would appreciate notice of that. Mr Tune—I will just check. I will have to take that on notice. It is not clear. We would need to go back and have a look at the advice. Then there is another issue about that being advice that we provided to government on policy and whether I can talk about that is another matter. Senator RYAN—I appreciate that and obviously cabinet papers, but advice to minister is not a catch-all. Mr Tune—The advice we would have given would have been in various cabinet documents. Senator RYAN—Sure. And if that is the case I am not pushing, but for general advice to ministers other than that, that is not a catch-all assertion. Senator Sherry—We will take it on notice.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F5b	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 24	Senator RYAN—Every concern the department expressed has subsequently become a cabinet document? Mr Tune—Can I take that on notice? I will check.
F6	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 25	Senator RYAN—Can you take on notice the number of inspections that the foil inspection safety program at \$295 million will fund— Mr Tune—Yes, we can do that. Senator RYAN—and that the foil inspection safety program at \$66 million will fund? Mr Tune—Yes. Senator Sherry—We will take it on notice, but it really is a matter for the department, not for Finance. We will take it on notice and pass it on to them. They will have that information.
F7	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 26	Senator RYAN—Has the minister made any ex gratia payments that have arisen from applications, concerns or queries with respect to the Home Insulation Scheme? Senator Sherry—What do you mean by ‘ex gratia payments’? Senator RYAN—I understand the minister for finance has a capability to make ex gratia payments. Mr Tune—I am not aware of any. I will take that on notice and double-check for you. You are talking about act of grace payments, are you? Senator RYAN—Act of grace payments—sorry, you are quite right. Senator Sherry—I can indicate to you that act of grace payments are delegated to me, except where there could be a perceived conflict—that is, a claim relating to Tasmania. So I cannot speak in respect to act of grace payments that may or may not have come from Tasmania. But in respect to other claims, no. I will double-check the record but I certainly do not recall authorising any at all under any form of payment, including under act of grace, that would relate to this program. I will double-check but I am confident that there have not been any.
F8a	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 27	Mr Tune—Can I clarify the question: how many reg 10 determinations there have been by Minister Tanner over the last 12 months? Senator RYAN—The current financial year and the previous financial year, if you have them. Mr Suur—We would have to take that on notice. There would be hundreds of reg 10 determinations done in any week across the whole of the APS under the delegated authority. The Minister for Finance and Deregulation would do them less regularly. I would have to—

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F8b	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 27	Senator RYAN—What is that threshold? Mr Suur—I will have to get the details for you but the threshold turns on how many out years are affected by the proposed expenditure and how far it goes into the future, and there is a dollar figure. Senator RYAN—I would appreciate that. Are these published anywhere regularly that I have missed, such as on a website or in a report? Mr Tune—They probably are. Senator RYAN—In a comprehensive sort of way? ... Mr Suur—They are not published for the public, but there would be a record kept within Finance. That is where we would derive the numbers. It may be difficult for us to get you the number of reg 10 determinations that the minister has agreed over the two year periods you have indicated because reg 10 requests go to him from all sorts of sources. We would probably have to chase around and find that number. We will take it on notice and see what we can do and get back to you. Senator RYAN—In advance—and I appreciate you probably cannot get all this information—if these are not published in a consolidated fashion, I will be asking you to take on notice the numbers for the current and previous financial year—just a list of the ones that the minister has approved. Mr Tune—Just the minister’s ones. Senator RYAN—We will get some information on the threshold later. I would imagine that the threshold is low enough and that it is the minister’s approvals that I would be interested in.
F9	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 29	Senator RYAN—On budget day, Minister Tanner had a press release headed, ‘Budget delivers more than \$1.2 billion in efficiencies from government operations,’ which I believe were outlined in the 2010 budget. He also comments that the government ‘had achieved savings of more than \$8.5 billion from reducing waste and inefficiency.’ I am assuming that is since November 2007. Could you provide a list to the committee of the \$8.5 billion in efficiencies from government operations that have been made since that date? I presume you will need to take that on notice. Senator Sherry—We will double check the date because you have made an assumption on that. I am sure we can provide you with a list. Mr Tune—We will take that on notice.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F10	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 30	Mr Youngberry—I think the estimate that I provided at the previous hearings was that the preliminary figures from agencies was around \$600 million we expected to extinguish as part of the process. As we worked through the reconciliation with each of the affected agencies, the total amount that was extinguished was \$550.4 million. Senator RYAN—Is it easy for you to provide a list of what you extinguished? Mr Youngberry—It is. The extinguishment is also registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments, so it is publicly available information. We can provide the breakdown by agency.
F11	DFD	Cameron	26/5/10 31	Senator CAMERON—Ms Page, you have explained why it is not appropriate to use the ComLaw website to determine the effectiveness or the breadth and depth of the reduction in legislation and redundant legislation. They also mentioned that there was omnibus legislation that got rid of 200 pieces of redundant legislation. Can you just give us a flavour for how long some of that legislation was on the statute books and what some of that legislation was about and why it was redundant? Ms Page—I do not have that detail with me. We can provide that information on notice if necessary.
F12 ¹	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 34	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Will the national funding authority fall under the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 or the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997? Mr Tune—Yes, under the FMA Act. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—And will the staff be public servants? Tell me about the staffing of this authority. Mr de Carvalho—The independent hospital pricing authority? Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—No, the national funding authority. Mr de Carvalho—The national funding authority—I will have to check this—is not going to be a body that has public servants attached to it. It is basically a board that will oversee the funding passing from the Commonwealth into a national fund which will then be distributed into jurisdictional state funding authorities.

¹ Answered in Hansard transcript 26/5/10 p34.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F13a	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 35	Mr de Carvalho—Yes, it would have resulted in the calculation of a number of beds. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—You do not have that with you, but could you take that on notice as to the actual number? Mr de Carvalho—Yes. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—According to your calculations, \$800 million resulted in X number of subacute beds. Mr de Carvalho—I will have to check, but I would assume that that would be the case. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Could you take that on notice. If a figure of \$1.6 billion has resulted in 1,316, then one supposes that it was roughly half that amount.
F13b	DFD	Cameron	26/5/10 35	Senator CAMERON—The agreement at COAG does not provide for simply handing over \$1.6 billion. As I read page 233, the funding is contingent upon the states providing the beds on an ongoing basis. There has to be an increase in the number of beds. Is that correct? Mr de Carvalho—I will have to check on the detail, but my understanding is that this is part of the overall commitment to fund the state public hospitals through the National Health and Hospitals Network Fund. It will be contingent on some activity being carried out by state governments.
F13c	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 35	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—In the work that you did, did you take you take into account the marginal recurrent cost of adding beds and whether this varies from state to state? Mr de Carvalho—I would have to take that on notice.
F13d	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 36	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Assumptions about existing capacity or excess capacity in existing hospitals or about physical capacity restraints would obviously have an effect on marginal cost estimates. Are these the sort of assumptions you also took into account? Mr de Carvalho—I would have to check that. I do not think so. When the government was providing additional recurrent funding there was a recognition that this might lead on to capital constraints and, therefore, the government was also putting additional capital money on the table in those previous measures that we referred to. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Insofar as the work that you did, is it appropriate for you to take on notice to provide to us the assumptions that were made that underlie these figures? Mr Tune—We can do that; we will take that on notice.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F13e	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 36	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Thank you, if you could that, would be very, very helpful. Obviously a component of this is workforce issues and servicing the new beds. Did Finance take into account the ability of the existing doctor and nurse workforce to service these new beds at existing service levels? Mr de Carvalho—We were involved in costing some additional workforce measures that were announced very early on in the health reform process. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Were those assumptions that you could also provide to us as part of that question? Mr de Carvalho—The costing on the health workforce issues? Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Yes, and the assumptions that you made in relation to that. Mr Tune—Yes, we will take that on notice.
F13f	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 36	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—What is the time frame—this would be helpful—of the unit for the bed cost? I assume that would have been covered by what you do in your assumptions as well, Mr Tune—that time frame. Mr Tune—Can we take that one on notice as well?
F14a	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 37	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—I want to discuss the \$251.4 million over five years in relation to the four-hour national access targets. How was the estimated cost over five years to expand capacity within the hospital system for emergency department treatment arrived at? Mr de Carvalho—That goes to the detail of the costing assumptions, which I am not personally familiar with. Again, it is something I can take on notice.
F 14b	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 37	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Sure. Mr Tune, is that part of the assumptions that you can provide the details on? I am going to ask questions about emergency departments and in similar terms on improving access to elective surgery. Insofar as those assumptions are concerned, can I assume that you will be able to take those on notice? Mr Tune—Yes. If you are looking at the detail of what is underlying the costings, I am happy to do that. We can do it either as a block lot or measure by measure—it depends on how you would like it done and how much detail you would like.
F15	DFD	Fierravanti-Wells	26/5/10 38	Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Could you take on notice when that approach was made by Health and Ageing, specifically in relation to that measure. Mr de Carvalho—I can. From my personal recollection, it was in the lead-up to COAG, so it would have been around February. I will check. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS—Thank you.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F16	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 42	Senator RYAN—Regulations regarding the non-operating holding companies of life insurance companies? Mr McNamara—I am not sure about that one. Mr Tune—What was that one again? Senator RYAN—Regulation of the non-operating holding companies of life insurance companies. It is not something with which I am hugely familiar myself. Senator Sherry—No, neither am I. We will have to take that on notice. Mr Tune—Yes, I cannot find any reference to that.
F17	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 43	Senator RYAN—Did you make such a determination about introducing tiers to private health insurance, with thresholds or means testing? Mr McNamara—I would have to take that on notice.
F18	DFD	Ryan/ Ronaldson	26/5/10 46/54	Senator RYAN—Could you give me that list of agencies and their travel spend each? That, I would imagine, would approximate the vast bulk of that \$500 million. Mr Grant—I will certainly give you the travel spend. I will check on giving you the agencies, so I will take that on notice. ... Senator RONALDSON—With the greatest respect, the airlines are not sitting at this table but the department is, and this committee has responsibility for ascertaining the budget spend. Surely if there are claimed savings of \$160 million, and given this has been done on a department by department basis, you can provide the committee with a departmental breakdown of savings. Mr Grant—I have already taken on notice that I will provide it by departments.
F19	DFD	Ronaldson	26/5/10 51	Senator RONALDSON—That is right, which is unrelated. That brings me to my next question. I gather that Henry Burmester provided advice to Finance on 21 August 2000 in relation to the ownership of frequent flyer points and I am wondering whether you have got new legal advice which is different to the Burmester view of this. ... Ms Mason—I am speaking from memory and I would like to check my facts but, as I recollect it, the airlines treat frequent flyer points as belonging to the traveller, regardless of who actually purchases the ticket for travel. In that sense the traveller, whether they be a senator, member, member of the public, MOP(S) Act employee or other person—
F20	DFD	Ronaldson	26/5/10 51	Senator RONALDSON—Mr Tune, can you take on notice whether there is any paperwork regarding any legal advice that the airline might have provided you that is not Commonwealth legal advice? If that is available, I would be interested. Mr Tune—We do not think there is, but I will take it on notice and check.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F21a	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 56	Senator RYAN—Has the department of finance kept its promise to pay all bills to small business within 30 days? Mr Tune—I had better take that on notice. My recollection is that, yes, we are one of the best performers. I do not think we are 100 per cent but we are pretty high up.
F21b	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 56	Senator RYAN—Could you also take this on notice then: where you have not paid bills within 30 days, have you been subject to any claims for penalty interest and, if those claims have been made, has penalty interest been paid? Mr Tune—Certainly.
F21c	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 56	Senator RYAN—If you are having ongoing problems paying a bill, do you feel it is the department's obligation to inform the small business concerned of your obligation to pay them within 30 days? Mr Tune—I will take that on notice and check our processes.
F22	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 57	Senator RYAN—That was a year ago. In February of this year, to provide an apparent saving, you actually outline a savings measure of which one-third of it has been unwound only a year later. How can \$98.6 million be listed as a saving when the following year the very same item was increased by \$34.2 million? Net you would only have \$64.4 million less being spent on the number of ministerial and opposition staff. Mr Tune—We will have to check whether in fact we have netted it off somewhere. Senator RYAN—Even if it has been offset somewhere else in the budget, Mr Tune, I would suggest that at the very least it would require a footnote explaining that, while it says a \$98.6 million saving has been made, the very same item number had a \$34 million increase the following year—so within the period that you have outlined the saving. Mr Tune—I understand what you are saying. I think we just need to check it. Senator RYAN—I would also ask you to check whether any other items on this savings list have similar issues, where adjustments have been made that would otherwise indicate that this answer provided only three months ago conveys a somewhat misleading impression upon the savings measure on that item. Mr Tune—Yes, we will do that.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F23	DFD	Kroger	26/5/10 58	Senator KROGER—I just want to follow up, Mr Tune, while you are here, on your responses to Senator Ronaldson, which were in relation to when the discussions with the airlines commenced. When did these negotiations commence? Mr Tune—Quite a while ago. This contract negotiation has been going on for quite a period of time. Hopefully Mr Grant is still here and he can give you the full details. I think he is coming back in. Senator KROGER—If you could advise when those discussions did commence and when they were signed off on, that would be very helpful. Mr Tune—They were certainly signed off very recently. I co-signed them on behalf of the Commonwealth. I signed a very large number of documents around the time of the budget, so I know when it was finished, but I would need to check when it started.
F24	DFD	Brandis	26/5/10 59	Senator BRANDIS—Mr Tune, is that a relevant comparison? Surely the Australian government ought to be a best practice debtor. CHAIR—Senator Brandis— Mr Tune—This is not an area that we are involved in—I am sorry. Senator BRANDIS—But what is the answer to my question? Mr Tune—That is a department of innovation issue, not ours. Senator Sherry—We will take it on notice.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F25	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 60 - 61	Mr Tune—In one instance we have been asked for a costing on an alternative policy scenario, if I can put it that way. Senator RYAN—What was that alternative policy scenario? Mr Tune—That was around the freeze on Public Service numbers and what the implications would be. Senator RYAN—And that request for an alternative policy scenario came from the minister? Mr Tune—The minister's office. Senator RYAN—Was that request verbal or in writing? Mr Nicol—It was via email. Senator RYAN—Could you take on notice for us to have a copy of that email? Senator Sherry—We will have to take that on notice. Mr Tune—We will have to take that on notice, obviously. Senator RYAN—Are you taking on notice consideration of providing that or taking on notice the provision of that? I appreciate you may not have it handy as we speak. Senator Sherry—No—we will take on notice consideration. Senator RYAN—Minister, inform me, with your longer experience in this place: as far as I am aware, such a document is not exempt from the request for information by estimates committees. Senator Sherry—I would have to take that on notice. Senator RYAN—Are you asserting a public interest immunity claim? Senator Sherry—No, I am not asserting. I am taking it on notice. Senator RYAN—You are taking on notice consideration. Taking on notice refers to— Senator Sherry—I will take advice on the matter you are raising. Senator RYAN—I suppose I cannot ask my next question until I get the answer to the first one. Senator Sherry—I will try and get you an answer. Senator RYAN—Thank you.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F26	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 69	Senator RYAN—Mr Quigley indicated that the NBN business case shows: We will recover our yearly costs, including capital costs, within a few years after the end of construction period. That means we will be net income positive for that period. The government has previously indicated that the construction period was eight years. If I take ‘a few years’ to mean three, which I do not think too many people would disagree with, that means that this would not be net income positive until at least 2020. Mr Tune—I think what the implementation study says—and Mr Quigley is probably more au fait with it than I am—is that NBN would be cash-flow positive by year 6, it would be able to erase commercial debt by year 6 and it would be able to start paying dividends by year 11. That is in the scenario without doing a deal with Telstra. I may stand corrected on that and I am happy to check that.
F27	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 69 - 70	Senator RYAN—Sorry, maybe I should have used different terminology. When I said ‘nominal’, I was referring to very simple terminology. Is the government getting the simple number of dollars it handed over to the NBN back or is it getting— Mr Tune—I see. Senator RYAN—the real effect of it back? Mr Tune—No, I am sorry, I understand what you are saying. I would have to check that. I understand your question, but I do not know the answer.
F28	DFD	Cormann	26/5/10 71	Senator CORMANN—It is over a period of time—and maybe Mr Martine can assist us here—but after 10 years your cost of funds is still up at nine to 12 per cent. Mr Tune—Yes. Senator CORMANN—So how do you cover that cost in the first 10 years? Mr Tune—I would have to go back and look at the implementation study.
F29 ²	DFD	Cormann	26/5/10 72	Senator CORMANN—This is my point. The reason, then, why you are able to make this assertion of commercial viability, and being able to recover the cost of funds, is based on the fact that as a government you are able to access funds at a lower cost than an equivalent provider or an equivalent business in the private sector. Is that right? Mr Tune—Yes. By doing that you can generate a social return as well as the financial return. Senator CORMANN—Sure. So the argument, I assume, would go by the government, but how does that fit with the competitive neutrality principles? Mr Tune—I do not know. I do not think there is a conflict, but I will take that on notice and check that for you, Senator.

² Answered in Hansard transcript 26/5/10, p72.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F30	DFD	Joyce	26/5/10 79	Senator JOYCE—The United Kingdom, my good Glaswegian friend! What is the exposure in those highrisk areas that the Future Fund has? I am sure that you have done your due diligence and seen how much your exposure is in those areas. What is it? I imagine you would have some. Mr Costello—Of course. I was not anticipating the England part of that—the UK part of that—so I do need to take that on notice.
F31	DFD	Humphries	26/5/10 84	Mr Sotiropoulos—I can. I would just like to clarify that the actuary, Mercer, prepared all the estimates on our behalf. As to the assumption in terms of proportions, currently the estimates allow for 60 per cent of members in the civilian schemes to take a pension, but they have increased that to 70 per cent on the basis that the pension would become even more valuable than it currently is. On the military side, the Australian Government Actuary undertook the estimates. From memory, they did not change their assumption on the take-up rate for the pension because it is already very high. So there were two different actuaries that prepared the estimates. Senator HUMPHRIES—If that assumption is not accurate you can get back to us about that. Can you tell me how that changed the dollar amount in the calculation? Mr Sotiropoulos—I would have to take that on notice.
F32	DFD	Humphries	26/5/10 85-86	HUMPHRIES—The Matthews report, again adopting what the department of finance put to it, stated that unfunded liabilities accruing by 2020 for civilian and military pensions, using the CPI or MTAWWE methodology, would be in the order of \$82 billion. This figure appears to have been derived by taking a proportion of the 45-year term of unfunded liabilities. Is it possible to tell us how much of a discount there was over that 45-year period to account for the deaths of people who would have been in that scheme for part of the time? Mr Sotiropoulos—We do not have that level of information. That is something that the actuaries would have used as part of their methodology. Senator HUMPHRIES—Can we seek that information from the actuaries. Mr Tune—I think what is being said is the correct interpretation—that the actuaries would feed in their standard assumptions and come up with those figures. Senator HUMPHRIES—But we do not know what the standard assumptions are. If we knew what they were, we would be able to— Mr Sotiropoulos—We will have access to the studies, so we will take that on notice. We will have a look at that and get back to you. Senator HUMPHRIES—Thank you.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F33	DFD	Humphries	26/5/10 86	Senator Sherry—It was the Government Actuary that did the military side. He is publicly available at estimates, through Treasury, if you want to speak to him. The private actuary was Mercer. I am sure we could make those details available, but I will to take that on notice for the minister. Senator HUMPHRIES—Thank you.
F34	DFD/ComSuper	Kroger	26/5/10 86, 87	Mr Bator—That is true, there is a contract out to find somebody to examine the ways that data is held in ComSuper and the quality of that data. Having said that, there is no evidence that the data holdings are in any way causing any incorrect benefits to be paid to members. ... Senator KROGER—How many tenders do you have? Mr Hutson—Given that the process is still running, I am not sure I am comfortable to say. But I am certainly happy to take that on notice and tell the committee at a later stage.
F35	DFD/ARIA	Ryan	26/5/10 90	Senator RYAN—I am not disagreeing with any of that, but the trouble with comparisons solely to benchmarks of the rest of the market or the rest of the world is we do not know what the comparator is. What I am trying to ascertain here is the particular impact of this particular proposal, because we do not know if our markets would not have done slightly better. We do not know if the resources sector would not have suffered quite as much. In recent years the resources sector has, I understand, outperformed a number of the measures you mentioned, hasn't it? It has had a pretty good run. Mr Crafter—I do not carry relative performance numbers around with me, but I could come back to you with that.
F36	DFD/ARIA	Ryan	26/5/10 90	Senator RYAN—Could you take on notice and provide to the committee a list of significant investments—I am happy for you to have discretion on that—in the Australian resources sector and the shareholdings held on behalf of ARIA? Mr Carrigy-Ryan—We can provide that to you. We would typically have a holding in every listed company in Australia at any time. It would be very helpful if you could give us some idea. Do you want that in terms of a percentage shareholding? Senator RYAN—I would like number of shares. Mr Carrigy-Ryan—And the dollar value? Senator RYAN—If you have that I am happy for you to do that, but I can do that myself. But I would be interested in the number of shares.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F37	DFD/ARIA	Ryan	26/5/10 90	Senator RYAN—We have just heard from ARIA that the impact of your proposed tax is to expect a 10 per cent drop in the value of their shareholdings. One of them alone has \$300 million. Mr Carrigy-Ryan, I would like to know about significant resources investments like large resources companies listed in Australia. I do not have a list of them off the top of my head, but I am happy for you to determine what a significant listing is. Mr Carrigy-Ryan—We will provide that information and send it to the committee. That will be the last set of audited numbers as at 31 March. Please bear in mind that that will have changed; our investment managers trade on the market around the world every day, so at any point in time it will vary—as will the valuations, of course.
F38	DFD/ARIA	Ryan	26/5/10 91	Senator RYAN—If you have it handy, what is the rough value of your investments in the Australian stock market? What percentage of that would your investments represent? Mr Crafter—We can come back to you with the exact number but it would be in the order of 30 per cent.
F39	DFD/Medibank	Kroger	26/5/10 95	Senator KROGER—How many members will be affected by the change—who may not have had the need to put in a claim but would be affected by the changes? Mr Sammells—I think the important thing to remember about that is that in any given year only about 15 per cent of our members who will actually lodge a hospital claim. Whilst, clearly, there is quite a large number of people on the product, the actual impact on people is really quite small. I thought I had the number here, but I cannot find it. I will take the number on notice.
F40	DFD/Medibank	Ryan	26/5/10 95	Mr Sammells—Yes. The danger with only looking at this sheet in front of us is that you are only looking at the products that were changed. If you could look at a list of all our products that are available and what is covered, which is the presentation that you might get if you came into one of our stores or went to our website, you would find a very large choice about products that can insure you for whatever you wish to be insured for, including cardiothoracic procedures. CHAIR—Can you provide that the committee so we have the full context of what we are talking about? Mr Sammells—We are happy to provide that on notice.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F41	DFD/Medibank	Cameron	26/5/10 97	Senator CAMERON—Did they put the same proposition to you—that you would have to pay \$750 upfront to cover—as they did to Jonathan Crabtree at GMHBA? ... Mr Sammells—To the best of my knowledge, we have not taken their proposal to the extent of having a firm contract proposal in front of us because, as a point of strategic difference, we have not taken ourselves to that level of conversation with them. Senator CAMERON—I am not asking you for a firm contract proposal. I am asking you what they put to you. Do you want to take that on notice? Mr Sammells—I can take that on notice.
F42	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 98	Senator RYAN—You may need to take some of these questions on notice. Can the department provide a list of all the projects that are being funded through each nation building fund? Mr Tune—We can, but I will have to take it on notice.
F43	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 99	Senator RYAN—Can you also provide me with expected interest and earnings over the next four years for those funds, on notice? Dr Feeney—By each year, or in total? Senator RYAN—By each year. Dr Feeney—I have it here, although it is probably easier on notice. ... Senator RYAN—Sure. That is all I have. If you can provide me with all the projects to come out of each of the funds, and those over the next four years, including timing and cost, that would be much appreciated.
F44	DFD	Ronaldson	26/5/10 101	Senator RONALDSON—What about the relevant minister's offices? Mr Tune—I do not know, but I assume there may be some there. Senator Sherry—I do not think they are specifically speechwriters and that is all they do, but I am sure the minister's staff write speeches. Mr Tune—The minister's office has media advisers, obviously. Senator Sherry—I will have to take that on notice. ... Senator RONALDSON—Please take that on notice and see whether there are speechwriters on staff, how many and their MOPS levels. I

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F45	DFD	Ronaldson	26/5/10 103	Senator RONALDSON—That \$79,000 contract with Reveal was the original scoping work, was it? Mr Sheridan—In fact, the \$79,000 would have been ongoing work after the original scoping study was completed—some technical work in putting together the requests for proposal, in that particular case, for internet based internet connections. Senator RONALDSON—I take from that that that was a finish-off contract, but the larger contract was actually let on the same day? It was for \$316,000. Mr Sheridan—I do not have the detail ‘316,000’ here. I would have to take that on notice. But we have used Reveal for a range of these activities.
F46	DFD	Ronaldson	26/5/10 104 – 105	Senator Sherry—Senator Conroy, as you have indicated in the quote, was obviously referring to one aspect of the behaviour that he was concerned about, one aspect of Google’s operation. That does not necessarily mean that the other aspects of the Google advertising can be similarly critiqued. We will find out the details and justification for the Google ads—what their purpose was et cetera.
F47	DFD	Ronaldson	26/5/10 107	Senator RONALDSON—Has there been any communication or coordination between the department and the New South Wales government relating to this advertising? Has there been any funding provided by the Commonwealth to the New South Wales government with this link? Has there been any discussion, in writing or verbally, or any contractual arrangement in relation to the placement of BER material onto the ‘beware take care’ website, which in my view is totally unrelated? Mr Tune—We will take that on notice. We are certainly not aware of anything. If there were a link, it would be through DEEWR, so the question is probably best addressed to them. But we will ask them and see what we can find out for you.
F48 ³	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 108	Mr Tune—Minister Tanner put out a press release a couple of days ago which had all the detail there. It was on 18 May. Senator RYAN—Can I get a copy of that? Mr Tune—Yes.

³ Document provided on the hearing day, 26/5/10.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F49 ⁴	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 108	Senator RYAN—And how much remains in the ICT BAU reinvestment fund? Mr Tune—It is \$271 million, approximately. The savings from the Gershon exercise were a bit over \$1 billion and the commitment was that about half of those savings would be reinvestment through the reinvestment fund. To date we have spent about \$231 million over rounds one and two. That leaves about \$271 million to go. Senator RYAN—Is the \$271 million—to use the vernacular—all there at the moment or is some of it coming in over the estimates period? Mr Tune—That is spread over the forward estimates period. Senator RYAN—Could you provide me, on notice, an update of how much is coming into the fund over the estimates period? Mr Tune—Yes, we certainly can.
F50	DFD	Ryan	26/5/10 110	Senator RYAN—What is the length of the runway at the moment? Do you know that? Mr Tune—I think it is very long. That is my technical input. Mr Scott-Murphy—My recollection, and it is somewhat unreliable, is about 850 metres, but if that is incorrect I will check and confirm.
F51	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 3	Senator RONALDSON—How many departmental officials service the ICC through its secretariat and what are their APS levels? ... Senator RONALDSON—You will provide me with details about the respective levels of all these people within the division, will you? Mr Grant—We can do that.
F52	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 3	Senator RONALDSON—If there are extra meetings, is there an extension on the contract amount? Mr Grant—No. We have a contract amount and we some provision for additional meetings in that contract amount, but we will see how it goes. Senator RONALDSON—How many additional meetings were allowed for in that additional amount? Mr Grant—I cannot tell you exactly. I think we made about a 10 or 15 per cent provision. Senator RONALDSON—Could you take that on notice please. Mr Grant—I will take that on notice.

⁴ Answered Hansard transcript, 26/5/10, p 108.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F53	DFD	Ronaldson/ Collins	27/5/10 5	Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Before we move on, is striking differential rates common practice with boards? Mr Tune—Yes, it can be. I do not know how common it is. Senator RONALDSON—What is another example of it? Mr Tune—I am not sure. I cannot think of one off the top of my head, but I will take it on notice. I am sure there would be others. Certainly chairs often get paid more than others. Senator JACINTA COLLINS—That is not the question. Amongst members, how common is that practice? Mr Tune—I do not know. I had better not speculate too far. We will check. Senator RONALDSON—But you did just speculate. Mr Tune—I will retract my speculation and check.
F54	DFD	Xenophon	27/5/10 20	Senator XENOPHON—Do you think it would be desirable—and I appreciate what the minister said about transparency in the process—and wouldn't transparency be enhanced if we knew that there was a maximum period of time? Senator Ludwig—I am happy to have a look at it.
F55	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 31	Ms Clark—We can table the documents. The answers are in those attachments, with the exception of one of the questions, which was 'How many personal staff with salaries above the range?'. The answer to that is not in those tables, but I can tell you that as at 1 May there were two government staff employed with salaries above the range. Senator RONALDSON—Which offices are they employed in? Ms Clark—I will have to take that on notice. I do not have the detail.
F56	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/110 35	Senator RONALDSON—Has there been an increase in the CCSTU staffing levels recently? Senator Ludwig—No. Senator RONALDSON—The CCSTU has not got an extra person in the lead-up to the election? Senator Ludwig—It has not changed recently. There have been five for some time, but I will take it on notice. There was a vacancy which was filled to bring it up to five. I will take it on notice to check, but it is around five.
F57	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 35	Senator RONALDSON—Can I just briefly take you back to the ministerial staffing situation. I understand that 50 out of the 337 ministerial personal staff are in the Prime Minister's office. Mr Tune, in the last decade has there been a higher percentage of ministerial personal staff in the PM's office that you are aware of? Mr Tune—I do not know. Senator RONALDSON—Can you take that on notice? Mr Tune—We can have a look, certainly

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F58a	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 38	Senator RONALDSON—I am not going to mention a particular senator's name, but this was a function at the Lotus Room at the Southern Cross yacht club, certainly a working-class venue—not. It mentions a group of panellists, and payment is \$60 or \$55, which is to be paid to a Ms Martin, with an address at aph.gov.au. Minister, as you know, I am very circumspect about names, but are you aware that that particular person is an adviser to the senator that I referred to before? On that basis, how can you possibly indicate that both of them are not Labor Party fundraisers and how can you possibly indicate that your own rules and the rules of— ... Senator Ludwig—There are two issues. I will take it on notice because I do not know Meg Martin; at least, I cannot recall her. Secondly, the CCSTU does not contribute in any way to the function. It is a billboard notice. I am not sure I see a problem with having a diary note which indicates what functions are around.
F58b	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 38	Senator RONALDSON—Minister, will you take on notice, please, whether indeed these two functions were cost-recovery only or whether they were fundraisers. Senator Ludwig—I indicated that it looks like a diary note to me in relation to those— Senator RONALDSON—Will you take it on notice? Senator Ludwig—I will see what I can do.
F59	DFD	Cameron	27/5/10 45	Senator CAMERON—But that leaves the great unanswered question: can you then use 20 flights during an election campaign, using public funding, to run your campaign? ... Senator CAMERON—I still think it is a grey area. I am not sure you have answered these questions effectively or clearly, so I would ask you to take on notice whether a candidate for political office can use their severance entitlement to campaign for that political office. I would like to get your considered position.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F60a	DFD	Ryan	27/5/10 49	Senator RYAN—My point here is that, again, from my limited knowledge of industrial law in Australia, it would probably not mean that one arm of the department would be distinguished from another arm of the department when it came to negotiating purposes or industrial considerations. Ms Mason—What I am saying to you is that nobody in the department knew that this was going to occur for parliamentary travellers. Senator RYAN—I understand that. What I am putting to you, however, is this: that there were some people in the department, which is the employing agency undertaking these negotiations, who knew that at some point it would be under consideration by the department or by the minister. Mr Tune—I am happy to get a view on this. I think I understand where you are coming from. I am not an industrial lawyer either and I take your point about what is happening. We will take it on notice and see whether we can provide some advice.
F60b	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 49	Senator RONALDSON—I do not think members' and senators' entitlements has been mentioned once in the last hour. We are talking about staff; there has been no discussion about members and senators at all. Ms Mason, my understanding is that under the Better Off Overall Test—BOOT—which comes under the government's new IR laws, it only takes one worker to be worse off for the agreement to fall. Is that correct? Is my understanding of the law correct or not? Ms Mason—We would have to take that on notice and check.
F60c	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 49	Senator RONALDSON—Minister, as the minister responsible for the staff agreement, were you aware of the moves to end frequent flyer points? Senator Ludwig—I will check the record, but it was very close to the time the announcement was made that I became aware of it.
F61	DFD	Collins	27/5/10 50	Ms Clarke—We can give you an indication on one of those, but on others we may not have the information. I can say in relation to the upgrades for flights of longer than three hours duration that over the last four years that provision has been used 10 times and the last occasion on which it was used was in 2007. Senator JACINTA COLLINS—So 10 times by how many people? Ms Mason—On 10 occasions. I don't know by how many people. Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Could you take that on notice? Ms Mason—Yes.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F62	DFD	Ryan	27/5/10 54	Senator RYAN—This is a technical question I have been asked to chase up on behalf of a couple of people because there have been different answers. Virgin has different levels of economy travel. What is the eligibility for staff who have an economy class travel entitlement to travel on Virgin? Are they allowed to travel in any class of economy on Virgin—because they only have economy seats; they just have different classes? Ms Clarke—We will take it on notice. Mr Tune—Yes, I think we will.
F63	DFD	Collins	27/5/10 56	Senator JACINTA COLLINS—On Senator Ryan’s point, is there no reason that we could not do what we do with our laptops, for instance: for approved or authorised applications, simply get administration rights for a limited period to download them? Mr Quester—I am unable to answer that. I know what you are talking about for laptops, where you get the OOTA rights for administrative access. I do not know whether that is actually possible on a BlackBerry. I would have to take that on notice.
F64	DFD	Polley	27/5/10 57	CHAIR—There was also a query that I understand the department was looking at, but I am not aware of whether it has been resolved. There was an undertaking to look at whether or not the time out in relation to the passwords could be extended on the BlackBerrys. At the moment it is a very short period of time; you have to continually put a password in. I understand the security, and I understand that that is why there is no other option available to us other than a BlackBerry. There was an undertaking that that would be looked at. Can you give us an update on that issue? Mr Quester—Unfortunately I cannot, I am sorry. CHAIR—Can you take it on notice? Mr Quester—I can take it on notice.
F65	DFD	Collins	27/5/10 57	Mr Quester—Additional to that, the BlackBerry obviously comes with a monthly data charge so putting that across 226 BlackBerrys per month is quite an expense. ... Senator JACINTA COLLINS—What is the nature of the data plan we all operate within? Mr Quester—We will have to take that on notice. The contract is held with the department. I will not have it here, I am sorry.
F66a	DFD	Moore	27/5/10 59	Senator MOORE—Has there been a 100 per cent return of the tabling documents? Ms Sims—Not yet but the deadline has not passed. Senator MOORE—Last year? Ms Sims—I would have to take that on notice.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F66b	DFD	Moore	27/5/10 59	Senator MOORE—Also for the 90 per cent of people who are returning the management report, can I get some indication over the last two years whether it is the same senators and members who are the 10 per cent who are not returning? Ms Sims—I will take that on notice.
F67	DFD	Collins/Chair	27/5/10 60	Senator JACINTA COLLINS—I think that relates to my earlier question, which is that you consider the new framework we are within now. If we are to be publicly accountable for detailed reporting of our costs that not only should we be informed of the parameters we are operating in in those areas but also I think Senator Polley's point is quite right: the department should be considering what software we need to support us to responsibly manage those costs. CHAIR—And training for staff. Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Could you please take that on notice? CHAIR—And the amount of time it takes to keep track of and checking of your management reports.
F68	DFD/AEC	Barnett	27/5/10 61	Senator BARNETT—Thank you very much. Mr Pirani, thank you again for your letter of 21 May. ... Firstly, do you have a copy of the DPP advice with you? Are we able to have a copy, if at all possible? I understand if it is not possible. Mr Pirani—No, I did not bring a copy of the legal advice with me. I have extracted some of the material from that advice that was obtained. Can I just take that on notice. I would like to contact the author of that advice in the DPP before agreeing whether it should be tabled. At this stage we would regard it as covered by legal professional privilege. However, I do note that I have extracted a lot of the material that is in the letter to you from that advice.
F69a	DFD/AEC	Ryan	27/5/10 65	Senator RYAN—Can you take on notice to provide a list of all the organisations for which the AEC runs annual elections, if necessary including state as well as national branches of trade unions and other associations—the registered groups under Fair Work.
F69b	DFD/AEC	Ryan	27/5/10 65	Senator RYAN—Referring to the annual elections, is it possible for you to provide a breakdown of costs for each of those annual elections? You can take that on notice. Mr Pirani—We will take it on notice. Mr Killesteyn—We can provide an estimate. Senator RYAN—An estimate for each of those? Mr Killesteyn—Yes. Mr Dacey—That would not be a list of every organisation that we can conduct elections for; it would be every organisation that we have conducted elections for. Senator RYAN—Yes, that is exactly what I was after, thank you.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F70	DFD/AEC	Ryan	27/5/10 67	Mr Dacey—In relation to protected action ballots, there is a requirement after every election for us to lodge a report, and there have been 565 of those ballots since 2005-06. ... Senator RYAN—What I was after was just the copies of the relevant reports from the current financial year that you have already prepared. I am not asking for the preparation of any additional reports, which I would imagine, given there have been 500 in the last five years— Mr Dacey—Sorry, Senator—I misled you and others. There have been 565 protected action ballots so far this financial year. Senator RYAN—I would imagine it is not difficult to send us a big email or a CD. Mr Killesteyn—We will take it on notice and I will have a look at the amount of work that is involved in collecting that. If it is within the resources that I have, bearing in mind that we are also preparing for an election, then we will provide that information.
F71	DFD/AEC	Ryan	27/5/10 68	Senator RYAN—In Victoria I understand the Australian Electoral Commission will be conducting a ballot of the 16,000 members of the Electrical Trades Union regarding its affiliation of disaffiliation from the Australian Labor Party. Senator RYAN—I am not sure if you would have the details of the costs yet, but could you provide on notice what the cost of that ballot is? ... Mr Killesteyn—I will take that on notice. Senator RYAN—Senator Collins raises an issue. Is this a commercial-in-confidence issue—the fee for service? Mr Pirani—We are not the only organisation that is in the market that conducts these types of elections, so again we will take it on notice and we will have a look.
F72	DFD/AEC	Ryan	27/5/10 68	Senator RYAN—I appreciate that we had discussions before about it being difficult to break down the cost of each of these elections, given they come out of your running base. Is that still the case? Mr Killesteyn—We can make estimates based on the number of ballots that are counted. We can make estimates on the questions that are asked. I am happy to provide an estimate.
F73	DFD/AEC	Ryan	27/5/10 69	Senator RYAN—Are you also able to provide on notice a list of the organisations for whom you conduct these elections, annual or organisational, which come out of your running costs and a cost base for each of those? Mr Killesteyn—Yes, we can take that on notice.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F74a	DFD/AEC	Cameron	27/5/10 69	Senator CAMERON—Did you advise the ETU, or would you advise registered organisations, that, if they enter a commercial contract with your organisation, the details of that commercial contract may be subject to scrutiny in the Senate? Mr Killesteyn—I would have to take on notice as to what discussions were held between the Victorian office, which is managing this particular election, and the ETU.
F74b	DFD/AEC	Cameron	27/5/10 69	Senator CAMERON—If you determine to provide information on the ETU contract, would you then provide notification to all other organisations who seek fee-for-services with you in the future that you may have to divulge details of the commercial contract? Mr Killesteyn—Again, I would have to take that on notice and look at the particular information that we provide to all organisations who approach the AEC. I will advise you on that.
F75	DFD/AEC	Cameron	27/5/10 74	Senator CAMERON—Have any employer organisations that are registered under the act failed to lodge their accounts? Mr Pirani—To the extent that they were donors or third parties I would have to take it on notice. Certainly I am aware of the recent media reports relating to a company that did not lodge one within a particular time because they had a change of personnel, but I am not specifically aware of an employer organisation, as opposed to a union, in relation to this. Again, part of the reason for that is that the returns we are talking about in this case potentially involve a union as an associated entity to the Labor Party and its associated entity returns as well as a candidate return. Those are the two issues.
F76	DFD/AEC	Ronaldson	27/5/10 74	Senator RONALDSON—I turn now to Contract Notice View CN269950 in the sum of \$60,000 for government campaign advertising with the supplier being BMF Advertising. The contract period was 15 March to 31 March 2010. Can you detail for the committee, please, precisely the nature and extent of that advertising campaign? Mr Killesteyn—Sorry, Senator, we will have to take that on notice.
F77	DFD	Ronaldson	27/5/10 76	Senator RONALDSON—Thank you. Do you recall that the 2007 Australian Labor Party platform declared that ‘democracy depends on robust electoral laws that prevent hidden power and influence from distorting the vote.’ Does that ring a bell? Senator Faulkner—I would need to check—but I am sure that is an acute quote. If you like I will take it on notice for Senator Ludwig to double check for you. If you say what you say it is, I have no reason to disbelieve you.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F78	DFD/AEC	Cameron	27/5/10 78	Senator CAMERON—I should rephrase that—it was not a failure to return but a late lodgement. That is what the HSU are being accused of here. Did British American Tobacco have two failures to lodge on time in 2005 and 2006? Mr Pirani—I would have to take that on notice. Senator CAMERON—What about in 2007-08 when they donated \$128,860 to the coalition? Were they late in their lodgement in 2007-08 with that \$128,860 donation? Mr Pirani—Again, I would need to take that on notice. These are on our website and the actual dates when they lodged them are a matter of public record, but I will take that on notice. Senator CAMERON—What about in 2008-09 when a further donation of \$140,000 from British American Tobacco company went to the Liberal Party? Was that again a late lodgement? Mr Pirani—That is the late return that was mentioned in the media and which I had a briefing on. I am specifically aware of that return being lodged late but I am not aware of the previous ones. But again, I will take that on notice.
F79	DFD/AEC	Ronaldson	27/5/10 82	Senator RONALDSON—Are you aware that Mr Lalic appears on Mr Swan's website? Senator Ludwig—I am not sure I have a clear recollection of that. I will go away and check. I do not think so.
F80	DFD/AEC	Ronaldson	27/5/10 84	Senator RONALDSON—In the previous PBS we could see the specific expenditure on industrial elections, couldn't we? Mr Killesteyn—I will take that on notice. I am not that familiar with that part of the— Senator RONALDSON—But you acknowledge that, in the latest PBS, there is no such disaggregation? Mr Killesteyn—It has been put into a different format so that all three of the primary programs are aggregated under the one outcome. So the same information is there, but it has simply been put under one outcome rather than three outcomes.
F81	DFD	Macdonald	Written	See below
F82- F92	All departments and agencies	Barnett	Written	See below
F93	DFD	Ronaldson	Written	See below
F94	DFD/Medibank	Abetz	Written	See below
F95	DFD	Ronaldson	Written	See below * transferred to DOHA
F96	DFD/AEC	Ronaldson	Written	See below
F97	DFD/AEC	B. Brown	Written	See below
F98	DFD	B. Brown	Written	See below

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F99	DFD	Mason	Written	See below* Transferred to DoHA
F100	DFD	Birmingham	Written	See below
F101	DFD	Abetz	Written	See below
F102	DFD	Joyce	26/5/10 77	Senator JOYCE —Mr Tune, how much of the Future Fund goes towards the accounting of net debt? Mr Tune —I would have to think about that, I am sorry. The Future Fund is run as a separate agency. Can I take that on notice? I do not want to hazard a guess, quite frankly.
F103	DFD	Humphries	26/5/10 83-84	Senator HUMPHRIES —You have mentioned your personal relationship with Mr Matthews. To provide some level of comfort and satisfaction to the people who have been critical of this process, could I ask you to contact Mr Matthews and ask him whether he did in fact use his skills as an international actuary to review and assess the basis of the calculations made by the Department of Finance and Deregulation and satisfy himself that they were sound when he adopted them in the course of his review. Senator Sherry —I would have to take that on notice. I no longer have any formal ministerial responsibility in this area and I am obviously cautious about cutting across another minister's responsibilities. I am happy to take it on notice and ask the minister who is responsible for considering this report, the Finance Minister, Mr Tanner, to do that. Yes, I know Mr Matthews, but, certainly in Australia, it is not unusual for me to know virtually anyone I can think of who could have been appointed to conduct the review. That is not unusual. If I had appointed someone in Australia, we almost certainly would have the claim that I know the person I appointed. I am absolutely certain of that.
F104	DFD	Collins	27/5/10 52	Senator JACINTA COLLINS —In my case, for instance, I have some 80,000 points as of my last management report. I have used 20,000 for parliamentary travel purposes. That leaves me with a remainder of 60,000. As a member or senator I have an option of continuing to remind my staff to please make sure they look for rare opportunities sometimes to sensibly use them or, as I suggested before, picking up some of the public calls which have said, 'Please just allow them to donate this to charity.' So my suggestion back to you is: in terms of the remnant points, look at whether we can just simply write them off, allow members and senators to donate them to charity and be done with senseless administration. Mr Tune —We will certainly look at that, but I suspect the issue at the heart of it may be that the points are between yourself and the airline. It would be the airline that would need to agree for that to happen. We will look into it and get back to you.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F105	DFD	Collins	27/5/10 53	Ms Mason—I do not think we have that information because it is not reported to us if they have used points to take additional flights, as far as I am aware. I should also correct something I said earlier. I mentioned the last occasion on which somebody had upgraded to business class for a flight of longer than three hours duration was in 2007. I have been given more recent advice that is not correct. It was actually done last year. Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Was it done once last year? Ms Mason—It was done three times. Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Is your 10 times accurate or not? Ms Mason—I have not got an update on that but I will check and if I find the information is not correct I will certainly provide correct information to the committee.
F106	DFD	Ryan	Written	See below
F107	DFD	Ryan	Written	See below
F108	DFD	Ryan	Written	See below
F109	DFD/AEC	Ryan	Written	See below
F110	DFD/AEC	Ryan	Written	See below
F111	DFD	Ryan	Written	See below
F112	DFD	Humphries	Written	See below
F113	DFD	Ryan	Written	See below
F114	DFD	Humphries	Written	See below* Transferred to the National Capital Authority
F115	DFD	Ronaldson	17/6/10 6	Senator RONALDSON—I remember that Mr Tune gave evidence. He may well want to send a letter for clarification in as well, but, when Senator Ryan put the proposition to Mr Tune that Dr Hawke might be sitting there watching TV before he knew about the exemptions, Mr Tune was very quick to indicate to the committee that that simply would not be the position and that, once the decision had been made, the minister would contact the chair of the ICC in a short space of time. So is that another matter that requires clarification? Ms Mason—We will check that evidence, but it is not a lengthy period between the signing of the letter on 24 May and the department's becoming aware that the letter had been signed. It is not uncommon for documents to take a day or two to get back to the department, so that is not remarkable. Mr Grant's advising Dr Hawke about the existence of the letter on 27 May was again very promptly done, and then the tabling took place very shortly thereafter.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F116	DFD	Ronaldson	17/6/10 7	Senator RONALDSON—I assume, Minister, that the Treasurer got the letter on the Monday. Did he? Senator Ludwig—I signed it on the 24th, so it would have gone through the normal procedures for it to be communicated to the Treasury. I would expect it to have arrived on the Monday, but I can check my record to see when they actually received it. Senator ABETZ—Was it faxed? CHAIR—Senator Abetz, are you seeking the call? Senator RONALDSON—Was the letter sent or, as Senator Abetz said, was it faxed? How was it delivered? Senator Ludwig—I think my focus was elsewhere at the time, but I will check my records to see how it was communicated. I said I would check to see how it was communicated.
F117	DFD	B. Brown	17/6/10 14–15	Senator BOB BROWN—Yes, we know that. Did you ask Dr Hawke any questions about that report after you were provided with that? Senator Ludwig—I would have to check my records, but I do not recall specifically asking about any of those, no. Senator BOB BROWN—About anything at all, about the content of the report? Senator Ludwig—I would have to check what records I have in relation to it, but I think I answered that I do not recall any, no. Senator BOB BROWN—I put that question on notice. Senator Ludwig—I think I have answered it, but I will check. Senator BOB BROWN—I do not think you have and I would like you to report specifically back to the committee on that matter.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F118	DFD	B. Brown	17/6/10 16	Senator BOB BROWN—Was the Prime Minister consulted about those [ICC members] appointments? Senator Ludwig—Not that I recall. Senator BOB BROWN—Would you check that? Senator Ludwig—Yes.
F119	DFD ⁵	B. Brown	17/6/10 17	Senator BOB BROWN—Have you seen my legislation introduced now to the Senate on preventing the misuse of government advertising? Mr Grant—I have not yet—I am aware of it but I have not looked at it. Senator BOB BROWN—If I can, Chair, I will provide the secretary with a copy of that. I wonder, Mr Grant, whether you would be good enough to provide any comment you may have back to the committee on that piece of legislation. Mr Grant—I will take that on notice, Senator.
F120	DFD	Kroger	17/6/10 21	Senator KROGER—Mr Grant, how many names were in the mix of those who were considered for the position of head of the ICC? Mr Grant—I do not know that. I was advised of the three members who were being proposed for appointment. Senator KROGER—Could you please take that on notice and provide us with the number of people that were considered for that position? ... Senator KROGER—The number in the mix, but I would also be interested to know what the numbers were for the other two committee positions, whether there were others in the mix in considering that. Mr Grant—I will take it on notice because I do not know.

⁵ An invitation to submit to this inquiry has already been issued to the Department by the secretariat. The reporting date for this inquiry is 21 June 2010. In this case, a response would be appreciated prior to the reporting date.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F121	DFD	Kroger/Collins	17/6/10 22	Senator KROGER—Thank you very much. With the appointment of Dr Allan Hawke, when he was commissioned to conduct the review, on what basis was that commission given and what support was he offered in asking him to undertake that job? Mr Grant—You will have to ask the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet that because they actually took the lead in the review and provided the secretariat support. I might add that I had one junior officer who was in that secretariat support but very much providing legs and hands, not policy advice. Senator KROGER—Okay. I will come back to that. Senator JACINTA COLLINS—Mr Grant, you understand that we are revisiting estimates here. Could you perhaps instead, to benefit the committee, take it on notice and talk to PM&C to see if you can adequately deal with Senator Kroger's question? Mr Grant—I can do that. I will take it on notice.
F122	DFD	Cameron	17/6/10 24	Senator CAMERON—The ANAO report, and I really find this quite amazing, said under the Howard government: The overall decision making framework for advertising campaigns, which was largely settled in the 1980s, was not well aligned with the requirements of the current financial framework. Can someone explain what that criticism was about? Mr Grant—I am sorry; I cannot. You would have to ask the ANAO. It is a fairly dated report now. Senator CAMERON—November 2007. Mr Grant—I am sorry. I just cannot answer it. Senator CAMERON—Could you take that on notice for me? It is not the question of when this report— Mr Grant—I will ask the ANAO. Senator CAMERON—I want to put this to you. It is not the question of when the report was delivered. It is the fundamentals and the issues that are raised in this that are important. Mr Grant—I understand. Senator CAMERON—Do you agree? Ms Mason—Senator, I suspect— Senator CAMERON—Sorry; do you agree with that? Ms Mason—I suspect the comment is to do with the previous arrangements predating the introduction of the Financial Management and Accountability Act. I suspect it is related to that, but perhaps we should go away and check.

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question
F123a	DFD	Kroger	17/6/10 25	Senator KROGER —So do you think that he [Dr Hawker] had support given to organise appointments with secretaries of departments and other people he consulted in ascertaining what ended up going into his recommendations of that report? Ms Mason —I really do not know, Senator, but we can take that on notice and make inquiries.
F123b	DFD	Kroger	17/6/10 25	Senator KROGER —If you could take that on notice that would be good. I would have thought, whichever department, there would have been a record of appointments that had been made for him in terms of his consultations. I would be interested in you taking that on notice to get us some advice in relation to that.
F124	DFD	Abetz	17/6/10 26	Senator ABETZ —Can you take on notice for me how many changes to the draft tabling statement were made that you were provided with by the department prior to its actual tabling? Senator Ludwig —I will put the caveat on that I indicated earlier as to whether or not— Senator ABETZ —I do not want the detail. All I want to know is the number of changes, so that does not go to the detail.
F125	DFD	Boyce	Written	See below. Transferred from FaHCSIA.
F126	DFD	Xenophon	Written	See below. Transferred from Treasury on 5 August 2010.*

Written QoNs

National Broadband Network

F81 – DFD – Senator Macdonald

- a) Would the Department please calculate the net present value of the NBN, using the data and assumptions contained in the Implementation Study, and based on a calculation of the weighted average cost of capital in accordance with the usual principles applied by the DoFD in relation to public capital expenditure.
- b) Has the DoFD been asked by the Government to do this work?

Staffing

F82 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

- a) How many permanent staff recruited since additional estimates (Feb 2010)?
- b) What level are these staff?
- c) How many temporary positions exist or have been created since additional estimates?
- d) Since additional estimates, how many employees have been employed on contract and what is the average length of their employment period?

Staffing – efficiency dividend/budget cuts

F83 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

- a) Have staffing numbers been reduced as a result of the efficiency dividend and/or other budget cuts?
 - Since the efficiency dividend was introduced?
 - Since additional estimates?
- b) If so, where and at what level?
- c) Are there any plans for staff reduction? If so, please advise details ie. reduction target, how this will be achieved, services/programs to be cut etc.
- d) If your Department/agency has been identified in the budget as delivering further efficiencies (savings), how will these be delivered? (for example, if the budget papers say ‘improvement to strategic work practices’ or similar, what are these and how will they be delivered?)
- e) What changes are underway or planned for graduate recruitment, cadetships or similar programs? If reductions or increases are envisaged please explain including reasons, target numbers etc.

Government Advertising

F84 – All Department and agencies – Senator Barnett

- a) What communications programs has the Department/Agency undertaken since additional estimates and what communications programs are planned to be undertaken?
- b) For each program, what is the total spend?

(by ‘communications program’ it is meant communication of a government message to the public – possibly by advertising (print, television etc), possibly through the erection of signs, plaques etc, or through other mediums. The recent (current) Government TV advertising campaign on health reform and specific health initiatives are examples, BER signage is an example, advertising on the Government’s proposed new tax system would be another example.)

A breakdown of how much was spent/is planned to be spent on each program/initiative should be provided.

Hospitality

F85 – All Department and agencies – Senator Barnett

What is the Department's hospitality spend FYTD?

Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events.

For each Minister/Par Sec's office, please detail total hospitality spend FYTD.

Please detail date, location, purpose and cost of each event.

Board Appointments

F86 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

- a) What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
- b) What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since the Government came to office in November 2007?

Grants

F87 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

Has the Department complied with interim requirements relating to the publication of discretionary grants?

Freedom of Information

F88 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

- a) Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b) How many FOI requests has the Department received?
- c) How many have been granted or denied?
- d) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Community Cabinets

F89 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

- a) What was the cost of Ministers travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since additional estimates?
- b) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?
- c) What was the total cost of this travel?
- d) What was the total cost to the Department and the Ministers office?

Reviews

F90 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

- a) What is the total number of Reviews *both completed and ongoing* in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?

Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since the government came to office (only those commenced after the current government came to office) including

- when those reviews were provided to Government,
- estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and
- if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.

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How many reviews are ongoing?

How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?

What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?

Consultancies

F91 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

a) How many consultancies have been undertaken or are underway since November 2007? Please identify the name of the consultant, the subject matter of the consultancy, the duration and cost of the contract, and the method of procurement (ie. open tender, direct source, etc).

Please also include total value for all consultancies, including figures for total *spending* on consultancies and also *value of contracts awarded*? Provide total figures since November 2007 and a breakdown on these figures for FY 2008/09 and 2009/10 FYTD.

b) Is the Department/agency up to date with its reporting requirements on the Government's tenders and contracts website? Are the figures available on that site correct?

c) How many consultancies are planned for this calendar year? Have these been published in your Annual Procurement Plan (APP) on the AusTender website and if not why not? In each case please identify the subject matter, duration, projected cost and method of procurement as above, and the name of the consultant if known.

All answers should be current at the time the answer is submitted.

Government Payment of Accounts

F92 – All Departments and agencies – Senator Barnett

a) Has the portfolio/agency paid its accounts to contractors/consultants etc in accordance with Government policy in terms of time for payment (ie. within 30 days)? If not, why not, and what has been the timeframe for payment of accounts? Please provide a breakdown, average statistics etc as appropriate to give insight into how this issue is being approached.)

b) For accounts not paid within 30 days, is interest being paid on overdue amounts and if so how much has been paid by the portfolio/department agency for the current financial year and the previous financial year?

c) Where interest is being paid, what rate of interest is being paid and how is this rate determined?

ICC

F93 – DFD – Senator Ronaldson

In light of the following evidence given by Mr. John Grant, First Assistant Secretary, Procurement Division, Department of Finance and Deregulation during the 27 May 2010 Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee Estimates:

Page 6 - "I might add that, where an exemption is granted, the minister formally records and reports the exemption to parliament ... historically it has been tabled as soon as the exemption has been granted, within a day or two"

Page 11 - "I suppose that the process is – and it is based on experience - before the campaign has even been brought before the ICC a request for exemption might be made and is

considered by the minister. The minister takes the decision and then informs the chair of the ICC and the parliament"

- a) Why was this historical practice of tabling the exemption "within a day or two" of its being granted not followed in the case of the Government's decision to exempt its tax reform (mining tax) advertising campaign from the Guidelines?
- b) On what date did the Government advise the chairman of the ICC about the decision to exempt its tax reform (mining tax) advertising campaign from the Guidelines?
- c) On what date was the ICC provided with information about the mining tax advertising campaign, when did the ICC meet to discuss this campaign, and which ICC members were present at that meeting where the mining tax advertising campaign was discussed?
- d) What comment or advice on the proposed mining tax advertising campaign was provided by the ICC to the Treasurer and/or Treasury?
- e) Can the Senate be provided with the unedited minutes of the meeting in which the ICC discussed the Government's proposed mining tax advertising campaign, and unedited copies of the ICC's comment or advice on the mining tax advertising campaign to the Treasurer and/or Treasury?

Medibank Private

F94 – DFD/Medibank – Senator Abetz

- a) When did Medibank Private become a shareholder of the company, Joint Research Pty Ltd?
- b) What is the purpose of the company?
- c) Did Medibank Private take legal advice on the proposed shareholding? If so, what was the nature of that advice?
- d) Did Medibank Private inform the government of its investment in Joint Research?
- e) If so, when was the government informed and what explanation was given for the investment?
- f) Does the government support this type of investment activity?
- g) Was there any direction given to Medibank Private about the need to disclose any conflict of interest while health insurers are also participants in the benefit setting process for products on the Prostheses List, and negotiations are undertaken by negotiators paid for by the industry body?
- h) If the government was not informed, who took the decision not to inform the government and when was that decision taken?

Transferred to DoHA

Health Reform advertising

F95 – DFD Outcome 2, Government Administration – Senator Ronaldson

- a) In relation to taxpayer-funded advertisements on behalf of its hospital reform proposal, how much will this cost?
- b) Has this reform plan been universally accepted and endorsed by all the states and territories of the Commonwealth?
- c) Have these reforms been enacted into law through legislation?
- d) Does the Government still agree with its 2007 policy platform that promised: "government advertising campaigns [will] only occur after a government policy has been legislated for by parliament"?

Advertising

F96 – DFD/AEC Outcome 1.3, Education and Communication – Senator Ronaldson

a) In relation to CN Notice View CN269950 for the sum of \$60,000 with BMF Advertising for “Government Campaign Advertising” between 15 March 2010 and 31 March 2010, can you detail for the Committee precisely what the advertising campaign relating to this contract entailed?

Electoral roll enrolments

F97 – DFD/AEC– Senator Bob Brown

Regarding the dramatic drop in electoral roll enrolments with 1.4 million eligible Australians not being on the electoral roll:

- a) What has the AEC done in the past year to increase enrolments on the electoral roll?
- b) What activities do you have planned before the coming election to increase enrolments?
- c) Are you projecting that those activities will increase enrolments or just halt the decline?
- d) How much money are you planning to spend to educate voters about getting on the roll in the coming financial year?
- e) Is this enough funding?
- f) What is an acceptable number or percentage of unenrolled voters?
- g) What is the level of funding the commission would need to achieve this acceptable number of unenrolled voters?

ASIO headquarters – National Capital Authority

F98 – DFD– Senator Bob Brown

Following on from questions asked at the February 2010 estimates hearings about the new ASIO headquarters being built in the Parliamentary Triangle:

- a) Exactly what date were the mass and height of the building first revealed to the NCA?
- b) If the NCA suggested alternative sites for the ASIO building, where were they and by what criteria were they dismissed?
- c) On what date did the NCA relax the height guidelines for the building from 25 metres to 33 metres?
- d) What reasons did the Department of Finance give the NCA for dismissing its concerns about the height of the building?

Transferred to DoHA

Minister for Sport's international travel

F99 – DFD– Senator Mason

Question:

Regarding the Minister for Sport's international travel since 4 December 2007:

How many times has the Minister travelled outside Australia?

i. For each of these occasions:

- 1. how many members of the Australian Public Service travelled with the Minister;
- 2. how many Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 ministerial staff travelled with the Minister;
- 3. did a spouse; family member or other nominee travel with the Minister;
- 4. what was the total cost of the trip;
- 5. can an itemised list be provided of the following costs:
 - a. airfares
 - b. VIP aircraft travel
 - c. Accommodation
 - d. Meals
 - e. Entertainment
 - f. car travel
- g. other expenses

6. for each night of accommodation, which hotel (or other establishment) was used by the Minister;
7. for each commercial flight, what was the class of travel:
 - a. of the Minister
 - b. of the members of the APS travelling with the Minister
 - c. of the M&PS Act ministerial staff travelling with the Minister
 - d. of the spouse, family members or nominees travelling with the Minister
8. what was the purpose of the trip; and
9. who did the Minister meet?

Buildings' energy efficiency

F100 – DFD – Senator Birmingham

Please list every building occupied by the Department.

For each building:

- Has an energy efficiency audit been undertaken? If so, what rating was achieved and what action has been taken to improve energy efficiency as a result of any audit undertaken?

1300 numbers

F101 – DFD – Senator Abetz

QON – ABETZ

Outcome3: Program 1.1

Topic: 1300 numbers

Question Ref No:F45

I refer to an answer to a question taken on notice on 28 May at Budget Estimates in 2009. In the answer it states at the very end "The Department is examining the issues raised by Senator Abetz and will provide the Special Minister of State with further advice on the matter". Could an update on this matter be provided? Has the Special Minister of State been provided with further advice? On what date? Has any action been taken on the advice by the Special Minister and his department? What issues were raised in the advice from the Department? Can we have an update on any action taken? When will this matter be resolved?

Ministerial Staff Declarations

F106 – DFD – Senator Ryan

- a) Has the Minister for Finance and Deregulation received any statements of private interests from his staff since 1 December 2009, regarding the buying or selling of equities or derivatives in resources stocks?
- b) If so, can you please provide dates of when those statements were received, stocks bought or sold, and when the transaction took place?

Staffing levels

F107 – DFD – Senator Ryan*

- a) What is the total expenditure on staffing for the Department and for all portfolio agencies? What is the SES and non-SES breakdown?
- b) What are the current staffing levels for SES and non-SES officers?
- c) What have been the changes in staffing level since November 2007?
- d) Have any voluntary or involuntary redundancies been offered to staff? If so, how have staff been identified for such offers? Are there such plans for the future?
- e) What was the total cost of staffing for the Department in the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09?
- f) What are the estimated total costs of staffing for the Department in the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11?

***potential overlap with F82**

Ministerial Pressure

F108 – DFD – Senator Ryan

- a) Did any Departmental staff report that they felt that ministers or their advisers pressured them to breach their duty to be apolitical, impartial or accountable in 2008-09?
- b) If so, which Minister was cited in the report, and when did it occur?

Political action ballots – Industrial elections

F109 – DFD/AEC – Senator Ryan

In Answer to Question on Notice F40a-b (Additional Estimates 2009-10) said that “The final amount for protected action ballots (PABs) in 2008-09 was \$466,809. PABs activity has increased in 2009-10 with \$772,270 invoiced to 31 January 2010. Based on this trend AEC is now forecasting a total amount of \$1.148m for the 2009-10 financial year.”

“The total number of industrial elections conducted in 2008-09 was 347. The number of PABs conducted was 230. The AEC conducted 125 non-union industrial elections in 2008-09, representing 36% of the total industrial elections conducted in that year.”

- a) What is the current expected cost of PABs in 2009-10?
- b) Why has there been a substantial increase in the cost of PABs from 2008-09 to 2009-10?
- c) How many industrial elections will the AEC conduct in 2009-10?
- d) How many of these industrial elections are for unions in 2009-10?
- e) How many of these industrial elections are for non-unions in 2009-10?
- f) What was the total cost of industrial elections for unions in 2009-10?
- g) What was the total cost of industrial elections for non-unions in 2009-10?
- h) What was the total cost of industrial elections for unions in 2008-09?
- i) What was the total cost of industrial elections for non-unions in 2008-09?
- j) What is the average number of eligible participants in a union election in 09-10?
- k) What is the average number of eligible participants in a non-union election in 09-10?

Costs of legal action against AEC

F110 – DFD/AEC – Senator Ryan

- a) What was the cost of legal action taken against the AEC in 2008-09?
- b) How many of the legal actions taken against the AEC were related to industrial elections related to unions in 08-09?
- c) How many of the legal actions taken against the AEC were related to industrial elections related to employer organisations in 08-09?
- d) What was the cost of legal action taken against the AEC in 2009-10?
- e) How many of the legal actions taken against the AEC were related to industrial elections related to unions in 09-10?
- f) How many of the legal actions taken against the AEC were related to industrial elections related to employer organisations in 09-10?

Risk Registers

F111 – DFD – Senator Ryan

- a) How many risk registers does Finance have?
- b) What policy areas do they cover?
- c) Can Finance provide copies of these risk registers?

Surplus Commonwealth land

F 112 – DFD – Senator Humphries

- a) In 2007 the then Opposition Leader promised to release surplus Commonwealth land. How much commonwealth land has been released since December 2007?
 - i. For the land that has been released, can the Department please provide the following information for each site:
- b) Is there any land in the pipeline of release?
- c) For the land that is scheduled for release, can the Department please provide the following information for each site:
 - i. Location of the site
 - ii. Amount of land at the site
 - iii. Land valuation of the land
 - iv. Anticipated final sale price
 - v. Anticipated amount of revenue to the Commonwealth generated by the land sale

Programmes of department and portfolio agencies

F113 – DFD – Senator Ryan

- a) Please provide, in spreadsheet form, a list of all programmes administered by your Department and portfolio agencies.
- b) For each listed programme, please list:
 - (a) The name of the programme.
 - (b) Full administered expenses for each financial year of the forward estimates period starting from 2010-11.
 - (c) Full departmental expenses for each financial year of the forward estimates period starting from 2010-11.
 - (d) Allocated Average Staffing Level (ASL) for the programme in 2010-11.
- c) If that list cannot be provided, please advise the reason why simple full-expenditure financial information is not readily available for the public's information.

Transferred to National Capital Authority

Parking in Parliamentary Triangle

F114 – DFD – Senator Humphries

- a) How many car-spaces does the Commonwealth own in the Parliamentary Triangle?
 - i. Can this also please be broken down, by agency or by location?
- b) How many car-spaces does the Commonwealth allocate to staff within the Parliamentary Triangle?
 - i. Can this also please be broken down, by agency or by location?
- c) Has the Government sought any modelling on the impact of the imposition of paid parking in the Parliamentary Triangle?
 - i. If so, can that please be provided?
- d) If paid parking in the Parliamentary Triangle were to be imposed, would the Australian Government be liable to pay fringe benefits tax for the car-spaces that it owns?
- e) Has there been any correspondence between the Minister and the ACT Government on the issue of paid parking in the Parliamentary Triangle?
 - i. If so, what was the date of that correspondence?
 - ii. If so, who was the correspondence with?
 - iii. If so, what was the nature of that correspondence?
 - iv. If so, Can that correspondence be provided?

Advertising

F125 – DFD – Senator Boyce

Can the Department confirm that the Government is the number one spender on advertisement on free to air television?

Parliamentarian's Travel

F126 – DFD – Senator Xenophon*

- a. The Government has stated it will save \$160 million on parliamentarians' travel over the next four years. Can the department itemise the expected savings?
- b. What reviews will the department undertake to ensure the savings target is on track over the next four years?
- c. Did the Department consider allowing only economy class travel instead of business class travel on trips of two hours or less? Does the department have any figures on how much this move would have saved?

***The date for the provision of answer to this question has been set by the Committee as Wednesday, 1 September 2010.**