

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome General, Program General

Topic: Freedom of Information Requests

Question reference number: F88

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Barnett asked:

- 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?

Answer:

For the purposes of this response, the timeframe has been determined as the 2010 calendar year (up until 27 May 2010).

- a) For the period 1 January 2010 until 27 May 2010, the Finance and Deregulation Portfolio (Finance) had not received any advice from the Government or any other source as to how to respond to FOI requests.
- b) For the period 1 January 2010 until 27 May 2010, Finance received 94 FOI requests.
- c) Of the FOI requests received by Finance between 1 January 2010 until 27 May 2010, 74 were granted in full, four were granted in part and three were refused. The remaining 13 FOI requests were either withdrawn or are currently being processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
- d) The power to issue conclusive certificates was removed in October 2009 by the *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certified and Other Measures) Act 2009*. Accordingly, Finance has not issued a conclusive certificate. Prior to that date Finance had not issued a conclusive certificate.