

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: Reviews undertaken by the Finance Portfolio

Question reference number: F90

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 3

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the portfolio/agency or affecting the portfolio agency since November 2007?
- b) Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since the government came to office (only those that commenced after the current government came to office) including:
 - i. when those reviews were provided to Government,
 - ii. estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and
 - iii. if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.
- c) How many reviews are ongoing?
- d) How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?
- e) What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?

Answer:

For the purposes of this response 'a review' is considered to be a formal examination of an area of government policy undertaken by a department/agency. The response excludes internal reviews undertaken as part of the day-to-day management of programs and as part of administrative processes.

- a) Since 3 December 2007, 13 reviews have been completed and two are ongoing.
- b) Since 3 December 2007, the following reviews were commenced and completed:

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Review of Pension Indexation Arrangements in Australian Government Civilian and Military Superannuation Schemes

- i. 24 December 2008.
- ii. \$77,053.
- iii. 21 August 2009.

Review of Australian Government Superannuation Administration Arrangements

- i. November 2009.
- ii. \$875,158.
- iii. November 2009.

Review of Parliamentary Entitlements

- i. 9 April 2010.
- ii. \$160,316.*
- iii. The Government is yet to respond.

*This is an estimated amount, pending finalisation of costs.

OECD Report - Towards a Seamless National Economy, 2009 Review of Regulatory Reform: Australia

Australia made a voluntary payment of €298,000 to the OECD to support the cost of undertaking the review and producing the report.

- i. 3 February 2010.
- ii. Estimated cost was €298,000.
- iii. 15 February 2010.

Strategic Review of Administration of Australian Government Grant Programs:

- i. The first element of the review was provided to Government on 4 August 2008 and the second element was provided on 19 September 2008.
- ii. \$184,677.
- iii. 24 August 2009.

Strategic Review of Australian Government Climate Change Program:

- i. 31 July 2008.
- ii. \$90,128.
- iii. 12 May 2009.

Strategic Review of Shared Services across Australian Government:

- i. In the 2010-11 Budget context.
- ii. \$44,022.
- iii. Considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.

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Strategic Review of Future Directions for Australian Government Service Delivery:

- i. In the 2010-11 Budget context.
- ii. \$185,308.
- iii. Considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.

Strategic Review of the Job Capacity Assessments Program:

- i. In the 2010-11 Budget context.
- ii. \$108,900.
- iii. Considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.

Strategic Review of Indexation of Commonwealth Programs:

- i. In the 2010-11 Budget context.
- ii. \$29,990.
- iii. Considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.

Strategic Review of Indigenous Expenditure:

- i. In the 2010-11 Budget context.
- ii. \$281,700.
- iii. Considered in the 2010-11 Budget context.

Review of Australian Government's use of ICT

- i. 28 August 2008.
- ii. \$625,000.
- iii. November 2008.

The Independent Review of the ICT Reform Program:

- i. 24 June 2010.
- ii. \$210,000.
- iii. The Government is yet to respond.

c) There are two ongoing reviews:

- *Internal Red Tape Review*; and
- *Review of Pre-2008 Subordinate legislation and other regulations.*

d) One review has been completed since Additional Estimates (February 2010) - *Strategic Review of Indigenous Expenditure.*

e) There are five planned reviews:

- *Strategic Review of Geoscience Australia;*
- *Strategic Review of the Management and Restocking of the National Medical Stockpile;*
- *Strategic Review of the Official Development Assistance program;*
- *Strategic Review of the Overseas Property Office; and*
- *Strategic Review of the Pensioner Education Supplement.*