

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM54

Topic: NAH Agreement - Breaches

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 110, 25 May

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

Number of pages: 1

Senator HUMPHRIES-If I may interrupt, I understand that point and I am not arguing in this case that extraordinary measures should not be taken. I am just trying to understand how it is possible for a national agreement, signed by all the governments of Australia, to be ousted by bilateral decisions between the Commonwealth and certain states that are inconsistent with the NAH Agreement. That is what I want to find out. Can I also ask you to take on notice, if there are such breaches-what I would characterise as a breach of an agreement such as NAHA-what penalties or sanctions are available within the agreement for states that do not comply with the terms and the obligations that they have under NAHA.

Answer:

As indicated in the answer to PM53, the introduction of streamlined processes to facilitate the supply of social housing through the Nation Building and Jobs Plan by state governments does not constitute a breach of the NAHA.

There are no penalties or sanctions within the NAHA.