

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 – Domestic Policy
Topic: 'Budget measures to strengthen the not-for-profit sector' document

Senator: Senator Fifield
Question reference number: 20
Type of question: Hansard, p 90, 23 May
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 8 July 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator FIFIELD: That is the 'better targeting of not-for-profit tax concessions: The Government will reform the tax concessions provided to not for profit (NFP) entities to ensure they are targeted only at those activities that directly further a NFP's altruistic purposes.

Mr Ronalds: That measure is encompassed underneath the broader Treasury announcements in relation to the not-for-profit regulator and the statutory definition of charity. So it is captured within that. The idea was to very quickly provide on budget night an outline of the key measures and point people in the direction for further information.

Senator FIFIELD: You say 'very quickly', but the government, in the form of departments and agencies, has the advantage of knowing before budget night those things within their portfolio, so one would presume that was prepared before the day.

Mr Ronalds: Yes. When I say 'quickly' I mean allow not for profits to quickly get a sense of the whole. That document was not in any way intended to be a comprehensive outline of all of the measures. It was to provide an indication of the key measures impacting on the not-for-profit sector.

Senator MOORE: Does the document say that? It is very difficult for you, I appreciate that you do have it in front of you and it is normal practice to look, but does it say in the document you could look elsewhere for other things?

Mr Ronalds: By its very nature the document was clearly an overview of the measures. It was not a detailed investigation of each of the measures. I would need to check the website, but my recollection was that it pointed people to further information on the Treasury website and other places. I would have to check that.

Answer:

The document 'Budget measures to strengthen the not-for-profit sector' addresses the Budget measure, 'Not-for-profit sector reforms – better targeting of not-for-profit tax concessions' under the item 'Tax reform: addressing recent judicial decisions and other risks'. A brief description is provided along with a link to the Assistant Treasurer and the Minister for Social Inclusion's joint media release 'Making it easier for charities to help those who need it'.