

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013**

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Outcome/Program: 3/3.1**

**Topic: Senator the Hon Bob Carr's electorate office**

**Senator: Ryan**

**Question reference number: F50**

**Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, page 10, 24 May 2012**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 6 July 2012**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Question:**

**Senator RYAN:** I will put more detailed on questions on notice regarding this, particularly about what the department knew, when it knew it, and, if it did not know it, what inquiries it made. It strikes me that here we have a place of business that has been turned into a Commonwealth office and you are not aware of it and nor have you made any inquiries about it. It is rare for people to be able to change the sign plate on the door and turn it into a taxpayer funded office.

**Ms Mason:** I think you are right that it is an unusual situation. But of course we do have other elected representatives who have privately funded offices. I guess that is the most similar situation that I can think of at the moment.

**Mr Tune:** We will take it on notice and follow it up.

**Answer:**

Finance is currently reviewing the use of the premises from the time it became the electorate office for Senator Carr, consistent with the Minchin protocol concerning alleged misuse of entitlements by Senators and Members of Parliament.