

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: Amendments to six monthly reports

Senator: Thistlethwaite

Question reference number: F53

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 12, 24 May 2012

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator THISTLETHWAITE: I have a follow-up question. Could you inform us why it is the case that a Senator or a Member may be asked to certify a six-monthly report that the department acknowledges is inaccurate?

Ms Moy: Are we talking about a tabling report that is certified?

Senator THISTLETHWAITE: Yes.

Ms Moy: A tabling report that is sent out is sent out prior to tabling for the Senator or Member to return to us with any queries. The queries should be amended if they are found to be correct on the Senator's or Member's side and amended prior to both publication and then final certification.

Senator THISTLETHWAITE: I can give you an example of a case at the moment where a report has been sent that is inaccurate and the Department has acknowledged that it is inaccurate but has said that they will not amend it and that it will be amended in the next certification period. I was rather surprised to hear from the particular officer that this happens all the time.

Ms Moy: I am happy to take that on notice, if you can provide me with the details, and look at that particular report.

Answer:

The Department of Finance and Deregulation attempts to quickly resolve any queries raised by Senators and Members about their six-monthly entitlements usage reports. Every effort is made to identify and resolve an issue and to annotate the specific report where appropriate. The example mentioned by the Senator was investigated and resolved following the hearings.