

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Lobbying Code of Conduct

Senator: Senator Rhiannon

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Type of Question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Under 'support services for government operations' 1.1.3 (p36), a deliverable is 'Administration of the Register of Lobbyists and the Lobbying Code of Conduct'. Budget papers say that no additional funding has been provided for government support services.

1. Of almost \$29 million going to support services for government operations in 2013/14, what is the portion going to administering the Register and Lobbying Code of Conduct?
2. Has there been an increase in the number of applications to be on the register in the last financial year?
3. If yes, does that demand additional resources?
4. If no, are you confident that the Code is being adequately administered, monitored and enforced?

Answer:

1. In accordance with normal procedure in managing the Department's appropriation, no specific part of the funds allocated for support services to government operations has been allocated for the administration of the Register and Lobbying Code of Conduct.
2. The Department does not maintain records of the number of applications made for registration on the Register of Lobbyists by lobbying entities and individual lobbyists. This information would need to be extracted and collated manually, which the Department considers would be an unreasonable diversion of its resources.

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The Department is, however, able to produce reports on the number of lobbying entities and individual lobbyists on the Register at a particular time. As at 2 June 2011 there were 283 lobbying entities and 627 individual lobbyists on the Register. The corresponding figure at 2 June 2012 was 277 lobbying entities and 604 individual lobbyists.

3. N/a.
4. Yes.