

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

November Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 4 November 2003

Question: 28F

Outcome: 1 Sustainable Government Finances, Output: 1.1.1 Budget Advice

Topic: Pricing Reviews

Hansard page: N/A

Written Question on Notice: 4 November 2003

Senator Forshaw asked:

Are the ACCC and/or the Department of Defence listed for future pricing reviews?

Answer:

There will be no further output pricing reviews as, following the Budget Estimates and Framework Review, the Government decided to discontinue this approach in 2002-03 (please also refer to the answers to Questions 28B and 28E).

Date:	10 December 2003
Cleared by (SES):	Robert Butterworth
Group/Branch:	Budget Group, Central Agencies Branch
Contact Officer:	Kim Lomax
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Question: 28G

Outcome 1 Sustainable Government Finances, Output 1.1.1 Budget Advice

Topic: Pricing Reviews

Hansard page: N/A

Written Question on Notice: 4 November 2003

Senator Forshaw asked:

In the light of results recently reported in the Annual Report of the Department of Defence and the Auditor-General's qualified endorsement of the report, could pricing reviews have improved these outcomes?

Answer:

No. Output pricing reviews had as their primary focus the verification of the price of a department's outputs. They did not address the issues of concern in the Auditor-General's qualifications, which related to the valuation of inventory, repairable items and military employee leave provisions.

Date: 10 December 2003
Cleared by (SES): Robert Butterworth
Group/Branch: Budget Group, Defence and Intelligence Branch
Contact Officer: Chris Knott
Telephone No: 6215 2003

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Question: 28H

Outcome 1, Output 1.1.1

Topic: Pricing Reviews

Hansard page: N/A

Written Question on Notice: 11 November 2003

Senator Forshaw asked:

In the absence of pricing reviews, what other action has been taken to ensure that the Department of Defence and other Departments are pricing their outputs accurately?

Answer:

The Government sets the price of outputs for departments in the annual budget process. Appropriate levels of funding are provided to enable departments to deliver the outputs agreed by the Government.

Date:	8 December 2003
Cleared by (SES):	Robert Butterworth
Group/Branch:	Budget Group, Defence and Intelligence Branch
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