

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2006

Question: F42

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Newspapers, Periodicals and Publications Allowance

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Senator Ray asked:

In terms of the newspaper, periodical and publications allowance, is any audit ever done as to the nature of what you are able to order in? I assume things like *Inside Cricket* and *Best Bets* are not recommended reading on this allowance.

Answer:

There is no systematic audit conducted on the allowance. The entitlement, as outlined in a circular from the Special Minister of State on 7 February 2005, provides for Senators and Members to select newspapers, periodicals and publications of their choice, within an annual allocation.

Information received on invoices varies from supplier to supplier. While some accounts are not itemised, all invoices are required to be certified by Senators and Members prior to payment by Ministerial and Parliamentary Services.