

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and Agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 31 October, 2006

Question: HS1

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Department of Human Services - Cost of preparing responses to questions on notice

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: F&PA 118

SENATOR MOORE asked on 31/10/2006:

[In relation to brief outlining costs of responding to questions on notice]

Senator MOORE—Can you table that piece of paper? It would be useful.

Ms Scott—I will take it on notice. I have some additional information, which I am happy to go through, about House of Representatives questions and Senate questions on notice, but they are all the same sort of thing.

Answer:

The information outlined in the brief on costs of providing responses to questions on notice is provided below.

May Senate Estimates Questions on Notice:

- 73 Questions on Notice (QONs) were asked at the May 2006 Senate Estimates Hearing. 72 responses have been prepared.
 - o The total cost of preparing responses was \$14,037.
 - o The average cost of preparing a response was \$195.
 - o The total time taken to prepare responses was 256 hours.
 - o The average time taken to prepare responses was 3.5 hours.
 - o One response to a QON, HS56, took 21 hours of preparation time at a total cost of \$1,220.

House of Representatives Questions on Notice:

- Since February 2006, costs to prepare responses to QONs have been included in the response.
- 69 QONs have been asked over the period February 06 to 31 August 2006.
 - o The total cost of preparing responses was \$57,764.
 - o The average cost of preparing a response was \$635.
 - o The total time taken to prepare responses was 1028 hours.
 - o The average time taken to prepare responses was 11 hours.

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Senate Questions on Notice:

- Since February 2006, costs to prepare responses to QONs have been included in the response.
 - 17 QONs have been asked over the period February 06 to 30 September 2006.
 - o The total cost of preparing responses was \$10,496.
 - o The average cost of preparing a response was \$635.
 - o The total time taken to prepare responses was 192 hours.
 - o The average time taken to prepare responses was 8 hours
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Total cost of all Questions: \$82,297

Total number of hours: 1,476.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes at an estimated cost of \$88.