

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 1, Program 1.1

Topic: Exemptions to the one-off 2% efficiency dividend

Question reference number: F30

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA Page 25, 20 October 2009

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Coonan asked:

Senator COONAN—At last estimates, Finance disclosed that the government agreed to exempt five agencies which are ordinarily subject to the efficiency dividend from the application of the one-off measure. Just to assist you, they were—

Mr Tune—We have it here.

Senator COONAN—Why were they exempted?

Ms Campbell—I was not in this job at that time, so we will just check and get back to you. We should be able to do that quite quickly.

Senator COONAN—Thank you very much. The other thing I am interested to know is: why were they exempted and was Finance's advice sought when deciding to come to this view about exempting them?

Mr Tune—We will follow up on both of those.

Answer:

1) The Government agreed to exempt five entities from the application of the one-off 2 per cent efficiency dividend. Four of these agencies had been subject to specific savings measures contained in the Government's *Responsible Economic Management* package. Details for each entity are set out below:

- The Australian Fair Pay Commission had been subject to the savings measure – *Responsible Economic Management - A Fairer and Flexible Workplace Relations System* (see Budget Paper No. 2, 2008-09, for details);
- The Workplace Authority had been subject to the savings measure - *Responsible Economic Management - A Fairer and Flexible Workplace Relations System* (see Budget Paper No. 2, 2008-09, for details);
- The Australian Trade Commission had absorbed Invest Australia activities, and was subject to the savings measure - *Responsible Economic Management - Global Integration – export facilitators to the United States market* (see Budget Paper No. 2, 2008-09, for details); and

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

- The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority had been subject to a reduction in levies to match the termination of additional funding for the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal as announced in the savings measure - *Responsible Economic Management - Choice of Superannuation Fund* (see Budget Paper No. 2, 2008-09, for details); and
 - The Australian Sports Commission's departmental funding comprises approximately 45 percent of grant programs with the balance representing operating costs.
- 2) Finance received requests from these agencies for exemption from the application of the one-off two per cent efficiency dividend and subsequently provided advice to Government regarding these submissions.