

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009–10 —October 2009
Questions on Notice (QON) index—Finance and Deregulation portfolio

Answers to the QON taken or submitted during the Supplementary Estimates hearings, are due on Friday 4 December 2009.

FINANCE AND DEREGULATION PORTFOLIO
Written Questions on Notice

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND DEREGULATION PORTFOLIO

F1 – DFD – (Ronaldson)

Can you provide the Committee with an updated estimate of annual costs of operation of the CCSTU, including salaries, travel expenses, ministerial and parliamentary staff allowance, administrative expenses, and other?

F2 – DFD – (Ronaldson)

Can you provide an update on any assets that may have been added to Suite MG-3 since May 2009?

F3 – DFD (a–b) – (Ronaldson)

- a) How many Ministerial Staff have membership of the Qantas Club paid for by the Department?
- b) In which Ministerial office(s) are these staff located?

F4 (a–d)– DFD – (Ronaldson)

With reference to the Commonwealth Government’s whole-of-government vehicle leasing arrangements:

- a) How many vehicles are currently leased by each Department, including their portfolio agencies.
- b) By Department, how many vehicles in (a) above:
 - 1) Are powered by Liquefied Petroleum Gas or Liquefied Natural Gas engines;
 - 2) Are powered by hybrid electric-petrol engines;
 - 3) Are purely petrol-driven four cylinder engines;
 - 4) Are powered by:

- i. Turbocharged engines, including:
 - 1. turbo diesel;
 - 2. turbo petrol.
 - ii. Supercharged engines;
 - iii. Eight cylinder engines.
- c) What was:
- 1) The total cost of the Commonwealth Government's vehicle contract for the 2008/09 financial year.
 - 2) The total cost for petrol.
- d) How many of these vehicles score more than 10 out of 20 or more on the *Green Vehicle Guide*?

F5 (a–b) – DFD – (Ronaldson)

- a) How many Ministerial Staff are currently eligible to be provided with vehicles as part of their remuneration package?
- b) How many of these staff have taken a payout in lieu of a vehicle?

F6 – DFD – (Ronaldson)

What is the make and model of the motor vehicle currently provided to each eligible Ministerial Staff member?

F7 – DFD – (Ronaldson)

What is the total cost of fuel provided for all Ministerial Staff vehicles for the 2008/09 financial year?

F8 – DFD – (Ronaldson)

How many Comcars are Toyota Prius?

F9 – DFD – (Ronaldson)

On how many occasions since May 2009 have Senators and Members explicitly requested that they travel by a Prius Comcar?

F10 – DFD – (Ronaldson)

Can you provide the committee with a detailed breakdown of Comcar's income for FY 2008/09?

F11 (a–d) – DFD – (Payne)

Disposal of Surplus Public Land (status of recent disposals):

- a) Former CSIRO and Defence Land: In June 2009, in response to a question on notice (No F62) the Committee was told that several surplus sites around the country had been released for sale onto the market. This included several CSIRO sites in Brisbane and defence sites in Melbourne and the Northern Territory. How many new housing lots have been created as a consequence of these land sales?
- b) Former Defence Land: It is noted that the defence sites are awaiting rezoning for future residential uses. Is there any timeframe for when this will be resolved?
- c) Schofields Defence Land: The Defence site at Schofields in Western Sydney was due to be rescheduled for disposal. It is understood that there was a need for a subdivision of part of the site that is to be sold to the NSW site for railway infrastructure. Has there been any progress on this sale?
- d) West Wattle Grove Defence Land: The West Wattle Grove site at Holsworthy was being reviewed by the Defence Department in terms of its logistics requirements and whether residential housing is the most appropriate use of the site. Has there been any progress on this review?

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

F12 (a–c) – AEC – (Bernardi)

Regarding the closures of the Electoral Education Centres in Adelaide and Melbourne:

- a) Can you update me on the progress of these closures?
- b) Of the staff who were employed at these two centres, how many were re-located?
- c) Did any individuals lose their jobs? If so, how many?

F13 – AEC – (Bernardi)

At the last Estimates, I was told that the AEC expected 80,000 visitors to visit the Canberra electoral education centres in 2008–09. Did 80,000 people end up visiting the Canberra centre?

F14 – AEC – (Ronaldson)

Following the Government's decision to terminate the electronic voting trial for Australian Defence personnel overseas, what work has been undertaken to ensure that our service men and women are enabled and encouraged to vote at the next election?

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F15	DFD/Medibank	Cormann	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 9	<p>Senator CORMANN—So can you confirm for me that what is happening to the Medibank rebate is a direct result of the government’s decision to cut the rebate? It is not based on an assessment that you have done internally as to the cost structures and the fee structures moving forward for cataract surgery?</p> <p>Mr Savvides—I am not sure whether we have done any research internally. I can take that on notice and check that, because we may have done that as well. I am not sure.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—But if you have done that as well then I would be very interested if you could provide us with a copy of your findings.</p> <p>Mr Savvides—We can have a look at that, sure.</p>	
F16	DFD/Medibank	Cormann	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 9	<p>Senator CORMANN—Are you aware of what the average out-of-pocket expense is going to be for your members who will access cataract surgery?</p> <p>Mr Savvides—No. I do not have that on me. I can get that for you.</p> <p>Senator CORMANN—That would be great.</p> <p>Mr Savvides—Okay.</p>	
F17	DFD/Medibank	Cormann	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 9	<p>Senator CORMANN—We will be having a debate about this in the Senate next week, so it will be useful, if it is possible, to get that information by the end of the week. I know that normally there are longer periods for answers, but I would really appreciate it. The government is cutting the rebate by about \$310. It is reported that you are cutting it by about \$290, so that is an increase in cost for private patients of about \$600. Are you concerned that increasing out-of-pockets will make access to this type of surgery unaffordable for many of your members?</p> <p>Mr Savvides—I am concerned about out-of-pockets for our members full stop. We work hard to negotiate with providers to either remove out-of-pockets entirely or keep them at a rate which we believe is competitive and affordable. On this particular item, I will do some work on it, have a look and come back and answer your question.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F18	DFD/Medibank	Cormann	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 9	Senator CORMANN —Medibank Private members who access cataract surgery in the public system as public patients will continue to get access to this service free of charge, won't they? Mr Savvides —I assume that that is correct. I will have to check that.	
F19	DFD/Medibank	Cormann	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 10	Senator CORMANN —If the Senate were to disallow the cut in [cataract surgery] rebate—and it would go back to the original rebate—using your standard formula, would that mean that your Medibank Private rebate would increase again by \$290? Mr Savvides —In other words, would it go back to what it used to be? Senator CORMANN —Yes. Mr Savvides —I assume it would, but I would have to take that on notice and investigate that for you.	
F20	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 15	Senator BERNARDI —What is the cost of establishing a telepresence centre? Mr Tune —It is reasonably large. I do not think I have the detail with me. I can take it on notice if you wish.	
F21	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 16	Senator BERNARDI —I would be interested in the cost [of establishing a telepresence centre]. Also, there must be some research into the potential cost savings. Do you document that? Mr Tune —Correct. As I said, there was a business case done and it suggested that this was going to be a net save for the government over a period of time. You have an upfront capital investment but in time you get a return on that. Senator BERNARDI —I understand that. I would be interested in seeing the business case. Mr Tune —I will take that on notice and see what we can do.	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F22	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 16	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Is there any intention to extend the government's 25 per cent target for airline competition to other routes outside of Canberra and Sydney?</p> <p>Mr Tune—No, we are not aware of any view around that.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Have you provided any advice to the government?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I do not think we have.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Has any advice been requested of you?</p> <p>Mr Grant—No.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Minister, why would that be? It is such a good policy on one route, why would they not try to extend it across other routes?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I am the representative minister here. I would have to refer that to Minister Tanner. I will take it on notice for you.</p>	
F23	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 16	<p>Senator BERNARDI—There was an article in the paper about the cost of a taxi fare for Minister Ellis, who was at a community cabinet meeting. There are conflicting reports in here that I have received. This community cabinet meeting took place in Port Macquarie. There was a \$200-plus cab fare because a cab was required to wait for hours to drive Minister Ellis to the airport. I am interested in getting a list of the cost of taxis and hire cars for use at all community cabinet meetings. Would you be able to take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I certainly can...</p>	
F24	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 18	<p>Senator COONAN—Are you able to provide an updated list of major programs which are currently exceeding the two per cent spending target?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I can take that on notice.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F25	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 18	<p>Senator COONAN—Are you able to indicate within each portfolio a breakdown of the current percentage of spending? In other words, are they exceeding two per cent or are they under it?</p> <p>Mr Tune—That would be available at MYEFO but we would not have it at this point in time.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—You would not be providing it at this point in time? You think it is available in MYEFO?</p> <p>Mr Tune—It will be available in MYEFO. If it is not, MYEFO will be derived from information like that.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Perhaps we should take that on notice and undertake to provide the information, if we can, once MYEFO is released.</p>	
F26	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 20	<p>Senator COONAN—How many agencies have advised Finance and/or the minister that they will be operating at a loss in 2008-09?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I do not have that information, but I could take that on notice.</p>	
F27	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 20	<p>Ms Campbell—In 2008-09, because of the change in the bond rate, the way the discounting on some of the employee expenses occurred meant that agencies would operate at a loss. The Minister for Finance and Deregulation had agreed to approve those losses for that one factor alone. That is why there has been a significant increase in the number of agencies operating at a loss during that year.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—How many were operating at a loss and approved because of the change in bond rate?</p> <p>Ms Campbell—We would have to take that on notice and get back to you. But that was a significant element of the number—</p> <p>Senator COONAN—The figure I have is 21. Does that sound likely?</p> <p>Ms Campbell—I do not have that with me at the moment, but we will take that on notice.</p>	
F28	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 21	<p>Senator COONAN—Could you please take on notice and provide me with a list for the 70 agencies that reported a loss as to the contributing factors that led to the approval?</p> <p>Ms Campbell—We will take that on notice.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F29	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 25	<p>Mr Tune—In the case of the War Memorial, it is not the depreciation funding that is sitting in their accounts that is the issue; it is about what they do with it. So it does not hit the bottom line—that is, spending—until they actually spend it. If they are saying that they did not use some depreciation funding and spent it, that is different, I think, from taking it off their depreciation. It is just that they did not use it and therefore they did less of something than they otherwise might have done using the depreciation funding.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—My point about it was that these do not appear to be the kinds of efficiencies that really are meant by the efficiency—</p> <p>Mr Tune—I guess what I am saying is that they cannot do that. It is not the way it works.</p> <p>Ms Campbell—And there has been significant confusion on depreciation funding, as we have discussed at this committee before. Sometimes agencies did use it for maintenance-type activities, and they may have reduced some of their maintenance activities.</p> <p>Mr Tune—It may be the way they have described that it is a bit at odds. I am not sure. I will have to check it out. But in general the answer is no.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Would you just have a look at that particular example for me?</p> <p>Mr Tune—Certainly. We will take that on notice.</p>	
F30	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 25	<p>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—</p> <p>Mr Tune—We have it here.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Why were they exempted?</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will follow up on both of those.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F31	DFD/Minister	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 27	<p>Senator COONAN—I am really just interested in the actual decision-making process [for discretionary grants] as opposed to whether you write to the minister about it or whether it is a list. We all know that you do not always get the true story in a list or on a website. Look at AusTender for example, which I will come to shortly. You get some information, but you certainly do not get a definitive position. I am interested to know why the higher standard that Mr Tanner set for the government appears to be being resiled from. Minister, do you have a view about that?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator Sherry—...I can take on notice for the minister to respond as to whether he is of the view that what has been implemented is a significant improvement—and I think it is a significant improvement—and to respond to your statement that you do not believe it is.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Without being silly about it, what I am really trying to establish is whether or not the minister was so persuaded by the review that he no longer thought it important to implement or continue with the implementation of the standards he set for himself or set for the government.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—As I said there are significant improvements in oversight in this area. What conclusions Mr Tanner's came to after the review was undertaken I will have to take on notice and seek his view.</p>	
F32	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 27	<p>Senator COONAN—On the last occasion we had some questions about how one could effectively monitor consultancy expenditure across government. I am interested to know whether Finance has commissioned any monitoring system to scrutinise consultancy expenditure across government since we had that discussion.</p> <p>Mr Tune—Not that we are aware of, but we will check for you.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F33a	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 28	<p>Senator COONAN—Have there been any savings on consultancies?</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I can take that on notice for the minister. He may examine consultancy expenditure. He may receive reports, I do not know, but I am happy to take it on notice. I do know he has a very keen interest in all of these areas of expenditure and in ensuring we get better value for money to improve efficiency. I will take on notice whether or not he has some process for receiving a report and update on things like efficiency, cost reduction from consultancies and other government advertising etcetera.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Thank you, Minister, for undertaking to do that. Just to be clear about it, I would like to know what the minister has achieved by way of reductions, as he promised, specifically in relation to advertising expenditure, specifically in relation to expenditure on consultancies, specifically in relation to non-defence related recruitment expenses, specifically in relation to opinion poll and market research spending and specifically in relation to media monitoring undertaken by departments.</p> <p>Mr Tune—Some of those we can provide answers to. Advertising, as I mentioned earlier, is one that is monitored quite closely. In other cases you will find the details are in the annual reports of agencies.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—It would be handy for the purposes of the committee if they could just be collated so that we can form some view, from what the minister has identified as being important to him as areas of potential waste, as to what precise reductions in expenditure in each of those areas and what efficiencies have been achieved.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Just so that I can be clear, firstly we do not have all the annual reports yet.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—I understand that.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—When they are all available, you would like Finance to provide—I am assuming the two per cent will be met by all departments—</p> <p>Mr Tune—It is taken out of their budget.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—That is right and that is reported. You would like an aggregated figure for savings achieved in each department and agency in those specific categories.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Tune—I am not sure whether we can do it. It is extremely labour intensive, as you would appreciate, but we will do our best to provide some information.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator Sherry—I certainly know that in opposition we used to go through all these annual reports and have to add up the separate components on advertising, consultancies and a range of other categories. We as an opposition used to do that ourselves. Unfortunately, Finance only has the capability in a couple of areas centrally. I will take it on notice and we will see what we can</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F33b	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 29	<p>Senator COONAN—Do you have some way in which you can inform the committee what savings have been achieved for non-defence related recruitment expenses?</p> <p>Mr Grant—We have some data. We have recently entered into a new contract with Adcorp, and the previous contract did not provide particularly good information about the split between public notices, tender notices and recruitment. So what I can do is have a look at what data we do have, recognising that it might be imperfect. The data from Adcorp is much better.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—So you will take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Grant—We will take that on notice.</p>	
F33c	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 34	<p>Mr Tune—...I understand there has been some study done of whether there should be centralised approaches to media monitoring. A study was done by this department about a year or so back prior to my time and the conclusion reached was that it was not practical to actually do that.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Is that study available?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I do not know, Senator, but I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Would you and, if it is available, would you produce it?</p> <p>Mr Tune—Can do.</p>	
F34	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 34	<p>Senator COONAN—Just for my own knowledge who is an employee of Post is probably a legitimate question. So when you say it was offered to employees I am wondering how extensive it is and whether all the subcontractors are regarded as employees for that purpose.</p> <p>Ms Hall—I will have to take that question on notice, Senator.</p>	
F35a	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Pages 34, 35	<p>Mr Lewis—Back to your question, Senator, finance would have a very keen interest in examining those parts of Australia Post's corporate plan which deal with new business activities as we would in relation to any government business enterprises. It is certainly something that we would regard as a core part of what we do as part of the annual review of the corporate plan.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator COONAN—...What percentage of the business activities does this comprise? You said it was very small.</p> <p>Ms Hall—I would have to take that on notice in order to get you a precise number, Senator.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F35b	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 35	<p>Senator COONAN—So how does it actually operate if they do not assume any risk?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—Again, rather than getting into the details of giving you a response that might not be correct, suffice to say we can provide those details.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator COONAN—I am not being critical of it, I am wanting to understand. It seems to me to be quite a significant departure from what even their expanded core business appears to be. Insurance is a very complex product, as we all know, and I am just interested to know how it would operate and what risks are involved, even if small, whatever that is.</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will try and pull all that together for you, Senator.</p>	
F35c	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 35	<p>Senator COONAN—It occurred when I was one of the shareholder ministers. I am not being critical of it; I am just interested to know what Finance’s view is of insurance as a product line as opposed to post-it notes and toys.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Lewis—We can, as Ms Hall mentioned before, provide you with some of the details on notice.</p>	
F36a	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 36	<p>Mr Tune—The [NBN Co. equity injection] approval was given in the context of the budget, so there would have been a budget decision. As to the issue about when, I do not think it has actually gone in yet. I know some has gone in.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Could you take that on notice?</p>	
F36b	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 36	<p>Mr Lewis—Again, we can check this, but we understand that there have been three equity injections to date. The first one was for \$10, the second one was for \$10 million and the third one was for \$50 million. If you are after dates, I am sure we could persist with that.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Perhaps you could tell me where—</p> <p>Mr Lewis—Source and date?</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Yes, please...</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F36c	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 36	<p>Senator COONAN—What is the time frame for future equity injections in the company?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—It may be better to take that question on notice. The only reason I say that is that it is obviously going to be dependent on the work currently underway in relation to the implementation study, which is looking at a whole range of elements, from network design through to what that means for the expenditure profile for NBN. It might be better if I take that question on notice. It may well be one that I need to consult the broadband department about as well.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator COONAN—But, anyway, you will give me the time frame when you have consulted about it?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I am not clear there is a time frame for the rest of the equity to go in at this point in time. There is nothing definite at this point in time.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—There will have to be something, so I would like you to take the question on notice, or give me the answer now if you can, about the future time frame for equity injections in the company.</p> <p>Mr Tune—Yes.</p>	
F37	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 37	<p>Senator COONAN—Have Finance verified the operational costs for the NBN Co. for this financial year?</p> <p>Mr Lewis—Senator, we would have been involved with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy in analysis with the NBN Co. in relation to their operating costs through 2009-10. So, yes. But, if you want details, again we would probably need to take it on notice.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F38a	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Pages 37, 38	<p>Senator COONAN—Is the NBN Co. required to prepare a statement of corporate intent?</p> <p>Ms Hall—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Is there any reason why they would not?</p> <p>Ms Hall—Some entities that are statutory authorities or statutory corporations are required to prepare statements—</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Did you say ‘are not required’?</p> <p>Ms Hall—No, I said, ‘are required’. Other entities that are GBEs but are not statutory corporations or statutory authorities, which NBN is not, are not required. So to give you a precise answer on that, I would prefer to take that on notice, if that is okay.</p>	
F38b	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 38	<p>Senator COONAN—Could you give me an example of who or which agency or company authority may not be required to provide a statement of corporate intent? I am just interested in the dichotomy that you have just drawn there.</p> <p>Ms Hall—Again, I would have to take that on notice and come back to you.</p>	
F39	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Pages 38, 39	<p>Senator COONAN—I am interested in understanding what reporting obligations [NBN Co] has and when the company is likely to be complying with those obligations.</p> <p>Mr Lewis—We will take that on notice and give you a formal response to the question. [...]</p> <p>Senator COONAN—I am hoping that I do not get back on notice: ‘We are waiting on the implementation of the implementation study’ because that is not an answer to how statutory and other legal obligations of the company are to be met.</p> <p>Mr Tune—The company exists, so it does have obligations.</p>	
F40	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 39	<p>Senator COONAN—Will the finance minister be required to approve the level of the company’s borrowings?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I am not sure of the answer to that on whether there is to be a specific borrowing limit. I guess in coming to a view about the corporate plan there is some degree of approval going on. Whether it is formally about that particular aspect I would have to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—All right...</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F41a	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 40	Senator COONAN —Has the NBN Company established an audit committee? Ms Hall —I will have to take that on notice.	
F41b	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 40	Senator COONAN —You would not know then who is on [the audit committee]? Ms Hall —I would not know the composition. Senator COONAN —Could you take that on notice? Ms Hall —Yes, I will take that on notice.	
F42	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 40	Senator COONAN —CAC Act bodies are required to comply with Commonwealth procurement guidelines. Will that apply to the NBN? Mr Lewis —I am not sure your statement is completely correct, Senator. Senator COONAN —Are there any that do not? Mr Lewis —I do not know. There may well be. Senator COONAN —But you cannot think of any at the moment. You cannot give me any examples. Mr Lewis —No, I cannot give you one; but that is simply because it is not something I am particularly close to. That is something I think we would need to take on notice because it may or may not be the case.	
F43	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 40	Senator COONAN —...Will the requirement, which we understand would apply, to comply with the procurement guidelines be complementary—that is, will they be consistent—with the stated aim of ensuring that procurement opportunities will be there for local businesses with the rollout? Mr Lewis —The first part of that, as I think I have already indicated, we will need to take on notice because it is not clear to me that the procurement guidelines applicable to FMA agencies will apply to this government business enterprise. On the latter part of the question, my understanding is that NBN Co. will be looking at creating opportunities for local business in relation to the rollout of the network.	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F44	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 41	Senator COONAN —Has any analysis been done on the effect of legislation currently before parliament in relation to the NBN on competitive neutrality, including that the proposed legislation as it currently sits compels the provision of network information of carriers and utilities for a period of 10 years for use by the NBN Co in the rollout? Mr Lewis —I will need to take that on notice. There may have been such analysis conducted. I am just not aware of it.	
F45	DFD	Humphries	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 44	Senator Sherry —We have to check for the record as to whether he [Mr Matthews] had access to written letters and communications.	
F46	DFD	Humphries	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 45	Senator HUMPHRIES —You said he [Mr Matthews] had a two-day hearing in Canberra. How long was he in Australia altogether? Mr Greenslade —In total his time in Australia, I believe he landed a day or two before the hearings and left a few days after that I do not have the precise dates. Senator Sherry —We can take that on notice and get it for you.	
F47	DFD	Humphries	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 45	Senator HUMPHRIES —How much did the review cost, bearing in mind he was not paid but there must have been some other expenses associated with the work that he did? Mr Youngberry —We will need to take that on notice, Senator.	
F48	DFD	Humphries	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 45	Senator HUMPHRIES —So you consider that those colleagues who have written to the minister are wrong to assert that there is a perception out there that the government has broken its election promise. Senator Sherry —I have not seen the correspondence. Senator HUMPHRIES —You have not seen it? Senator Sherry —No, I have not. I am not the minister responsible in this area. I do not believe they have written to me. I would have to check my office correspondence. They may have written to Minister Tanner but they have not written to me. I will double-check anyway...	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F49	DFD	Humphries	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 46	<p>Senator HUMPHRIES—You represent Minister Tanner at these hearings. Does the minister intend to respond to the representations on this issue that have been made to him by his backbench and frontbench colleagues?</p> <p>Mr Tune—He has responded.</p> <p>Senator HUMPHRIES—Is it possible for that response to be tabled?</p> <p>Mr Tune—I would have to take that on notice. It is the minister’s letter, obviously.</p>	
F50	DFD	Abetz	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 48	<p>Senator ABETZ—The procurement [discussion] forum? Are you able to provide to us details of that—who was on it, details of the consultation?</p> <p>Mr Tune—Certainly.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—I do not want to take up too much of the time of my colleagues on this. If you could take that on notice, I would be obliged.</p>	
F51	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 51	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Can you tell me which agencies have implemented [information and communication technology] quick wins?</p> <p>Mr Sheridan—I do not have a list of those at the moment. I will take it on notice.</p>	
F52	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 51	<p>Senator BERNARDI—...why has [the Department of Defence's PC shutdown process] not been rolled out through every government department to realise similar savings and carbon dioxide emission reductions?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—...If Defence, which is one of the largest departments, and some would say a very difficult department to steer in a direction other than that which they are already heading in, can implement this and save \$5 million worth of electricity and 30,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, I find it strange that other agencies, which are more nimble and agile perhaps—</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will do a check if you like. We will have to get back to you. My feeling would be—and I have worked in quite a few agencies in the last couple of years—that it is pretty much a policy in every agency that when you go home at night you log off and turn off, so it is pretty much across the range of agencies. I cannot not tell you whether those agencies have actually measured the benefits they are getting in terms of improved environmental benefits and reduced costs but we will ask the question and find out for you.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F53a	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Pages 54, 55	Senator COONAN —...perhaps we could go to some of [the large infrastructure projects announced in the 2009-10 budget as part of the third phase of the economic stimulus package]. The projects that had been recommended with ‘real potential’, which were the words used, but nonetheless had not been fully assessed by Infrastructure Australia, include, first of all, West Metro. The line item says pre-construction work in 2008-09 of \$91 million over one year. How would that have been arrived at? Mr Tune —I think I had better take that on notice, Senator...	
F53b	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 55	Senator COONAN —Perhaps we could keep going with Mr Tune and his recollection. The Brisbane Inner City Rail Feasibility Study in 2010, which was \$20 million over a year— Mr Tune —I cannot recall, Senator, I am sorry. Senator COONAN —You will take all these notice? Mr Tune —Yes, certainly I will.	
F53c	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 55	Senator COONAN —The Oakajee port, Western Australia, with the start date of 2011 and ending in 2014, \$339 million— Mr Tune —The same issue.	
F53d	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 55	Senator COONAN —The Darwin port expansion for the Northern Territory with the start of 2011 and an end of 2013, an amount of \$50 million— Mr Tune —Yes.	
F53e	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 55	Senator COONAN —The Northbridge rail link, WA, starting 2009 and ending 2014, \$236 million, and the Bruce Highway, Queensland, with a start in 2009 and ending in 2012, \$488 million...	
F53f	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 55	Senator COONAN —...There are two other projects that also received funding that were not endorsed by Infrastructure at all. I would like to know what Finance's role was, if any, in the costing of the finance for these projects. Firstly, there is the Pacific Highway, New South Wales, the Kempsey bypass, with a start in 2010 and an end in 2014, \$618 million over five years, and the O-Bahn track extension, South Australia, with a start date of 2009 and ending in 2011, for amount of \$61 million...	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F53g	DFD	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 55	Senator COONAN —Did Finance cost the remaining seven projects, to the best of your recollection and knowledge, or how was it determined how much should be contributed by these funds? Mr Tune —I think I should take that on notice, Senator.	
F54	Future Fund	Ryan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 60	Senator RYAN —...Do you agree that the proposals for functional separation of Telstra and the potential denial of access to spectrum would be damaging to Telstra and its shareholders? Mr Costello —I think it could be damaging to Telstra and its shareholders. Senator RYAN —What about denial of the spectrum? Is there a way that can be perceived as anything other than damaging to Telstra shareholders? Mr Costello —I think this is such an important issue about a public company—and you can appreciate that from my perspective this is not an area that I work on day-to-day—that if that is a specific question then I would need to take that question on notice with reference to the people who are considering the range of options. Senator RYAN —I would appreciate those two questions being taken on notice...	
F55	Future Fund	Fielding	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 61	Senator FIELDING —...What is the difference in the value [of the Future Fund share price] compared to what it would have been if you had sold them immediately after the announcement? Mr Costello —That is something I could certainly take on notice and get back to you. Senator FIELDING —If you could take that on notice for us—thank you.	
F56a	Future Fund	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 67	Senator COONAN —When did you or the Board of Guardians last have a conversation with Telstra management or board about this matter? Mr Costello —The matter of the NBN announcement? Senator COONAN —Yes. Mr Costello —To answer that question accurately, I would need to confirm that.	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F56b	Future Fund	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 67	<p>Mr Costello—...We sold the [Telstra] stake because we think long term the Future Fund portfolio will be a superior portfolio if it is not as heavily exposed to a single company. So there were discussions with Telstra in the early part of that process, just trying to understand basically how the company—</p> <p>Senator COONAN—What time frame was that?</p> <p>Mr Costello—This was pre the end of the financial year, perhaps going back to April or May. Again, I think I would need to clarify that.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Could you take on notice and give to the committee a chronology of discussions that you or any one of the guardians have had with the management of Telstra or any board member of Telstra between November and 20 August 2009?</p> <p>Mr Costello—If that is information which an independent investor would be required to provide to the Senate, absolutely. I would like to be advised as to whether that is appropriate or not.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Why don't you just take it on notice and we will deal with any issues that flow.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F56c	Future Fund	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 68	<p>Senator COONAN—Did the fund vote its shares against the remuneration package of Mr Trujillo?</p> <p>Mr Costello—It certainly did, at the previous AGM.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—And you actively lobbied in respect of that.</p> <p>Mr Costello—That is absolutely a true statement that we did vote against that.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Are you still seeking that information?</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Yes, I am. I definitely am.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Perhaps you could clarify what the question is.</p> <p>Senator COONAN—I wanted to know all of the contacts—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—Who spoke to whom when?</p> <p>Senator COONAN—yes, between November of last year and 20 August this year.</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator COONAN—From my perspective—I do not know about my colleagues—I am relieved to hear that you are prepared to work appropriately with the company in respect of maintaining the value of this shareholding. You have taken on notice, and I expect a reasonably fulsome answer, please, on each and every contact that I have asked for, together with the substance of the contact.</p> <p>Mr Costello—...I will ensure that that question is answered fulsomely.</p>	
F57	Future Fund	Coonan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 69	<p>Senator COONAN—My last question on this matter is, when was the decision actually taken to sell down this first tranche of shares and when was UBS instructed to commence a book build?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator COONAN—Can I please have the chronology of when the decision was taken by the board or the guardians or however it was taken—it would have been a board decision, I assume—and when [Caliburn] was engaged.</p> <p>Mr Costello—Certainly.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F58	Future Fund	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 69	<p>Senator BERNARDI—I asked at the last estimates a question reference number F44. You probably do not recall it but it was in regard to the expected rate of returns in global economic growth...</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Are you willing to provide me with an update of those figures, say, in the near term, where you had 0.8 to 3.7 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Costello—Perhaps I could take the same question on notice and provide you with the same range of responses.</p>	
F59	Future Fund	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 70	<p>Senator BERNARDI—I would be interested in seeing what range of potential outcomes was given to the Future Fund by your respective fund managers immediately after the federal budget. There would have been an analysis and a critical assessment about what it means for growth in the Australian economy. I have no doubt that you would have received that. If you did not receive it I feel confident that you would have requested it. I would like to see copies of those—</p> <p>Senator Sherry—We will take that on notice.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F60	Future Fund	Ryan	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 71	<p>Senator RYAN—Do any of the three nation-building funds hold any Commonwealth or state government debt securities or similar instruments?</p> <p>Mr Costello—It is my understanding that they do not. Because it is such a low-risk fund, it is possible. I will take that on notice. It is not my understanding that they would.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—I would appreciate that. I know we had a previous discussion about how those would only be used in a low-risk, capital-protecting fund. If there were, I would appreciate knowing when those funds, or the Future Fund on behalf of them, purchased them and the amounts involved.</p> <p>Mr Costello—I must clarify that. This money is managed by external firms, as we published. So the Future Fund is not directly involved in any purchasing transaction. I would need to look at the mandate and see whether it prohibits Commonwealth securities that a manager might purchase on our behalf.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—If in those portfolios there are any Commonwealth or state government debt securities or similar instruments, I would appreciate it if we can get that information.</p> <p>Mr Costello—Certainly.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F61	DFD	Ronaldson	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 77	<p>Senator RONALDSON—I understand that but, as I said to you earlier on, Ms Mason, a lot of the matters that you consider are post a vet. They are post claimed travel. They are post claimed TA forms. They are post a series of events. Whether those events occurred or not, you are indeed reacting to an event that has, in the main, occurred. This is entirely different. This is actually prior to an event on which you are making a determination. I want to assure you, and the MAPS officers who I am sure are sitting in 4 Treasury Place at the moment and all around the country listening to this in case someone asks a question about their state, that this is no way a reflection on any one of you. There is, however, potentially a real opportunity here for gross executive interference in the rights of members and senators. Minister, can I ask you on behalf of our colleagues to take on notice the question of how we can address this situation [vetting MPs' printed materials]?...</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I would be happy to. I think it is clear that I am keen on ensuring that we have an open and accountable system in place that is also surrounded by simple rules—one that is clearly accountable and works for all members. To that end, as you would appreciate, there is already a consultative committee that has been set up to deal with some of those matters. But I will take it on notice.</p>	
F62	DFD	Abetz	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 79	<p>Senator ABETZ—Will [the Christmas card of a Minister] have on it 'paid for by the Australian government' or do the [printing entitlement] rules that apply to me and other senators on this committee not apply to you?</p> <p>Senator LUDWIG—I have not turned my mind to a Christmas card at this point in time. I will certainly take that on notice at this juncture.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Mr Tune, can you indicate to us whether the regulations apply to ministerial Christmas cards or not?</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Please.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—It is clear that if they are used under the printing entitlement then they will.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F63	DFD	Ronaldson	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 81	<p>Senator RONALDSON—That is really just a reinforcement of what we have just been saying for the last 10 minutes. Minister, are you prepared to approach the Prime Minister and seek his consent to imposing the same rules on ministers and departments in relation to the definition of electioneering for any material printed or distributed by ministers or departments in the same definitional terms as is the requirement for members and senators as a result of the changes to these rules?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—As I said earlier, I will take it on notice and have a look at that.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—That is good, but I am asking you: will you specifically seek the Prime Minister’s consent?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—What I said is that I will take it on notice and have a look at the issue.</p>	
F64	DFD	Abetz	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 82	<p>Senator ABETZ—You can have within this country referenda that are completely non-political such as the last republic referendum where there were Liberals writing out and saying ‘vote yes’, other Liberals saying ‘vote no’ and similarly on the Labor side of politics. It was clearly not party political at all, and you would be denying them in those circumstances, even where the parties do not have a fixed position. What gives here? I thought we were in a democracy with freedom of speech. Why has the government set up a regulatory framework that denies individual members of parliament to advocate a vote one way or the other on an issue that is clearly not party political or non-partisan?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—We do not have a referendum which were facing at the moment. Clearly, we can have a look at that. I can take it on notice and examine the issue.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F65	DFD	Ronaldson	Hansard 20/10/09 Pages 86, 87	<p>Senator RONALDSON—...I suspect that a decision was made in context in relation to the word ‘deplorable’. The wording you allowed through was ‘the deplorable move by the Burmese regime comes several months after,’ etcetera. What you are effectively saying is that it is all right under these new rules to describe a foreign government as deplorable but members and senators are banned from describing their own government, of any colour, in any context, as being dreadful. Minister, that is about as close to censorship as I reckon you can get. I ask you to take that example on notice and again review that situation. Basically, Ms Mason, I could not say in relation to this policy that the whole scenario is utterly ridiculous and a clear indication of incompetence, could I? I could say it was ridiculous, but I could not call it incompetent.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—After 12 years the ANAO indicated that not only was the system was broke but that neither the ANAO nor any lawyer you could find could interpret what the rules were. The response I am making is in response to what Senator Abetz has raised. If you are going to take cheap political points than I will respond, in fairness. If you want to progress this in a sensible manner, as I indicated earlier, I can take some matters on notice to deal with and other matters fall clearly within the recommendations of the ANAO, which we have all signed up to.</p>	
F66	DFD	Collins/Parry/Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Pages 91–93	<p>ACTING CHAIR—Senator Parry, while you are on this, there is another one that I would like to clarify. If you are responding to a request for information, such as a request for a copy of a day’s <i>Hansard</i>, are you able to do that under the communications allowance or not?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Tune—I do not think I can sit here and give rulings one by one as these issues come, but we will take them all on board and address them...</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Tune—I am taking them all on board, Senator. Whatever comes, we will examine them all and get back.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—There are a range of complex issues around what you may use it for. What I have indicated is that we will take it on notice and the department will have a look at it.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F67a	DFD	Parry	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 93	<p>Senator PARRY—Did you take into account, Minister, the fact that we have all been elected on a political platform? I think people expect that we promote the Liberal cause or promote the Labor cause because that is what people elect us to do. To that extent, why is there the exclusion of seeking membership for a political party? I will give you a particular example: through a website. If the website says, ‘If you wish to join the Liberal Party, click here,’ would that be outside of entitlement?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—It matters whether you are within or without. The way we have been dealing with them is for the department to respond. I think that is the sensible course. If the department needs to take it on notice and get back to you with a definitive answer then that is also a sensible course to adopt.</p>	
F67b	DFD	Parry	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 94	<p>Senator PARRY—Well, how would you invoice me if I claimed this and I had on my website, ‘Click here if you wish to join the Liberal Party.’</p> <p>Ms Clarke—That is something we would have to work through and has not been considered at this time.</p> <p>Senator PARRY—Minister, do you have an idea as to how that would happen?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—As I indicated earlier, those matters that you want to raise we will certainly take on notice. As I understand it, that was a pre-existing rule in any event. So if you are seeking to champion a pre-existing rule to be overturned, and it seems to be the Senator Abetz rule, then certainly we will have a look at that and respond.</p>	
F68a	DFD	Eggleston	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 95	<p>Senator EGGLESTON—Over the last year I have noticed an increasing use of private cars instead of Comcars at Perth Airport and in Canberra. I was here in Canberra some weeks ago. When I arrived on a Sunday night I was picked up by a Comcar. When I sought to arrange a Comcar for the Monday morning I was told I would have to take a taxi. Could you tell us the details of the use of private vehicles at capital city airports that have been used by federal members and senators over the last three years instead of Comcars?</p> <p>Mr Stopp—I would have to take that on notice, but I know that it is a downward trend.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F68b	DFD	Eggleston	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 95	<p>Senator EGGLESTON—Then one must ask, if there is no change in [Comcar's policy regarding private-plated cars], why it is that private-plated vehicles are being used increasingly instead of Comcars when I am told by Comcar drivers that there are, presumably, stand-by Comcar drivers available who are not being engaged.</p> <p>Mr Stopp—That question will be taken on notice in terms of the detail that you requested...</p>	
F68c	DFD	Eggleston	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 95	<p>Senator EGGLESTON—That is certainly not the information I have been provided with by the Comcar drivers in Perth and elsewhere, particularly in Canberra. There is a view that the Comcar service is not being used, the drivers who are available for work are not being called in and private hire cars are being used instead. What you are saying is totally the opposite of what I have been informed is the case by the drivers, particularly in Perth.</p> <p>Mr Tune—We will look at the data for you and break it down by state; that might help, particularly in relation to the Perth issue. We will see if there is anything there.</p>	
F69	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 96	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Mr Tune, earlier I started to raise a question about a community cabinet meeting and the use of hire cars, Comcars and taxis. You may not have the information at hand but I am interested in how often taxis and hire cars have been used to transport ministers and other members of parliament to community cabinet meetings. Could you take that on notice, because I presume you will need to do that?</p> <p>Mr Tune—In terms of the detail about the frequency, I will have to take that on notice.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F70	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Pages 96, 97	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Also, I am advised that the Port Macquarie community cabinet meeting actually had a shuttle bus available for travel to and from the meeting. Is that correct?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Minister, did you use that shuttle bus?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—You are over Port Macquarie. I will come back but you have reminded me of another matter.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—I do not want an answer to another matter. I want an answer as to whether you were on the shuttle bus.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I will come back to that. The shuttle bus from Port Macquarie to the community cabinet—</p> <p>CHAIR—Or back or both.</p> <p>Mr Tune—Do you want from the airport to the community cabinet, which was at a local high school?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—Yes, so in part the answer is I was on a shuttle bus for parts of the journey. But I will take it on notice and make sure I get back to you with a complete picture.</p>	
F71	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 97	<p>Senator BERNARDI—Please, correct the record.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—There are two matters:...and (2) I think there was an answer where I said that my advice was that the CCSTU staff had not travelled to attend community cabinet meetings. I have been made aware that on one occasion a staff member from the CCSTU did travel to and attend a community cabinet in Adelaide. That is in your home state.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—At taxpayers' expense?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—They were on the CCSTU, so it would have been—I will check what the actual full details were...</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F72	DFD	Bernardi, Ronaldson	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 97	<p>Senator Ludwig— ...If you want to turn up at community cabinets, they are public forums.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—Will you be [inviting all senators and members] or will the department be doing that?</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Can we get a ride on the bus?</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I will take that on notice.</p>	
F73	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Pages 97, 98	<p>Senator BERNARDI—The department is going to provide us with a list of your duty senators. We will deal with that first.</p> <p>Senator Ludwig—I hope we will be able to provide one for you too.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F74	DFD	Bernardi	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 98	<p>Senator BERNARDI—...But there was a report in the press in which apparently Minister Ellis kept a car waiting for many, many hours at some \$250 cost. She claimed she had not organised it, did not book it and it was just there for her. I was told that there was a bus available and Minister Ellis did not avail herself of it. I have read that the car was put at her disposal and discretion all day. I want to get to the bottom of it. I want to know who booked the car, why it was there and kept waiting for so many hours when other transport facilities were available, what cost there was to the taxpayer and whether it is true that indeed a taxi was engaged all day to ferry Minister Ellis around Port Macquarie.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Tune—We can provide some information on that now. We cannot answer every question you have raised there, but in general terms car transport bookings, including in the case you have raised, are made by parliamentarians or their staff. That is the way it operates.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Mr Tune—...If car transport costs include the use of a Comcar, or a taxi in lieu of a Comcar, the ministers and parliamentary secretaries are met by their respective home departments. So the costs involved would probably be best directed to that department. That is basically it. The other things we can take on notice. Some, as I said, are probably best directed to the minister's home department.</p> <p>Senator BERNARDI—My concerns are noted. I note the information you have provided. Any further information which you have undertaken to give on notice I would appreciate.</p> <p>Mr Tune—Will do.</p>	
F75	DFD	Ronaldson	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 98	<p>Senator RONALDSON—Ms Mason, can you tell me how many staff employed by the Prime Minister have either resigned or been dismissed from his office since December 2007?</p> <p>Ms Mason—We do not have the figures over that period.</p> <p>Senator RONALDSON—Can you obtain those for me—take it on notice?</p> <p>Ms Mason—We could take it on notice, yes.</p>	

QON No.	Department / group or agency	Senator	Hansard Page Number/ Written	Question	Date answer received
F76	DFD	Ronaldson	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 98	Senator RONALDSON —How many staff who have left the Prime Minister's office have requested exit interviews—do you know? Ms Mason —We would need to take that on notice.	
F77	DFD	Ronaldson	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 99	Senator RONALDSON —I presume you will need to take this on notice, but would you be able to give me the total cost of all severance payments, relocation costs, recruitment costs, security clearance costs and any other costs associated with the staff changes in the Prime Minister's office? Senator Ludwig —We can do that, Senator Ronaldson.	
F78	DFD	Cameron	Hansard 20/10/09 Page 100	Senator CAMERON —I have a question on this issue. I am sure you will take this on notice, Mr Tune, but could you provide information on the cost of staff changes in Leader of the Opposition Malcolm Turnbull's office? Could you provide the turnover rate in Leader of the Opposition Malcolm Turnbull's office and could you tell me how many staff have opted for the exit interview from the Leader of the Opposition's office? Mr Tune —Yes, we will do that.	