

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Topic: Senate centralised information database

Question reference number: P2

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 4, 19 October 2009

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

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Senator Bernardi asked:

[Is the centralised information database] on schedule and on budget?

Answer:

At page 77 of the 2008–09 Annual Report, the department reported that:

1. *Project background*- as mentioned in the annual report to which Senator Bernardi referred, the purpose of the project is to automate and facilitate the processing and handling of the very large number of submissions to Senate committees.
2. *Schedule* – the project commenced in January 2008. It is being developed in-house with a combination of officers from the department’s IT section and committee secretariat staff. In the annual report, it was reported that as at 30 June 2009, seven out of a possible 15 secretariats were already using the system. This figure has risen to 11 out of 15 as at October 2009. It is anticipated that the remaining secretariats will be on the system before the end of this financial year.
3. *Cost* – the cost of the project is made up of a portion of in-house staff costs as the staff who are working on the project *also* undertake other projects and duties. The cost as at October 2009 is of the order of \$110,000, with a total expected cost to be of the order of \$155,000. Following completion of the project, which is expected later in this financial year, the cost of maintenance of it will be subsumed within the department’s normal IT operating costs.