

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2009

Question: PM4(a-e)

Topic: Reporting on the Nation Building Program

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

At the last Estimates, Mr Mrdak stated that 'we are requiring the states and territories to report every month on expenditure and project process against every project, so for every school and every housing project we get a monthly report. The first detailed monthly report will be for this month, May?' (F&PA Estimates Hansard, 26.5.09, p.40)

- a) Have all states and territories presented a monthly report since May?**
- b) Have they all been presented on time? (eg no delays)**
- c) According to the most recent reports, are all projects on time and on and/or under budget?**
- d) If not, how many projects are behind and how many are over budget?**
- e) At this point in time, how is the deliverability of the projects looking?**

Answer:

- a) All states and territories have presented monthly reports since May.
- b) Agencies have indicated that states and territories have generally presented their monthly reports in a timely fashion with a few minor delays. These have not impacted the agencies reporting to the Office of the Coordinator-General within a reasonable timeframe.
- c) Most recent reports indicate that programs are tracking well against COAG completion milestones and are expected to be delivered on or under budget. The Office of the Coordinator-General does not receive individual reports against each of the more than 49,000 approved major construction and infrastructure projects and more than 500,000 minor building and installation projects.
- d) As can be expected with such a large number of projects, some delays are being experienced at the project level. However the strategies and contingencies put in place by the jurisdictions and implementing agencies provide assurance that the milestones set out by COAG will be met.
- e) The COAG National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan sets out a number of milestones in relation to elements of the Plan. All elements are tracking well against completion milestones and implementing agencies indicate they are on schedule for on-time delivery.