

## Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

### Outcome 2 Program 2.1

**Topic: Government Advertising - General**

**Question reference number: F102**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Cormann asked:**

Following a question from Senator Xenophon (F54), Finance was advising the Government on a timely deadline for the announcement of the use of the 'compelling reasons' clause. Has this advice been received and has it been accepted by the Government? If so, what is the advice on timing of these announcements?

**Answer:** The *Guidelines on Campaign Advertising by Australian Government Departments and Agencies* (Guidelines) provide that campaigns may be granted an exemption on the basis of a national emergency, extreme urgency or other compelling reason.

While Finance provides policy advice and process support, it is generally not able to advise the Minister whether a matter represents a national emergency, extreme urgency or other compelling reason. Judgements of this nature generally are best exercised by the responsible Minister and, or policy department.

The timing of the announcement of the exemption can be affected by a range of factors including Parliamentary processes.