

**FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING, 18 OCTOBER 2010
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ANSWERS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE**

P10 – Department of the Senate – Senator Bernardi

- a) Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to exceed their current budget? If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

Answer:

The Portfolio Budget Statement for 2010-11 identifies one program for the Department of the Senate which comprises the whole of the department's operations, all of which sit within its only outcome of Advisory and Administrative Support Services to enable the Senate and senators to fulfil their representative and legislative duties.

As at 30 September, the department was reporting a small surplus, most of which is the direct result of reduced chamber and committee activity during the election and post-election period. The department expects the remaining nine months to run very close to projections. The one proviso is that the establishment of various new work units, for which the department is seeking funding through the 2011-12 budget, may cause the department to go into deficit for the current financial year.

- b) Are there any programs within your portfolio that are likely to under spend their current budget? If yes, please provide details (for example a demand driven program that has had higher than anticipated take up).

Answer:

Further to the response to (a) above, despite the current surplus for the quarter ending 30 September 2010, it is not expected that the department will under spend in any area over the remaining nine months of the current financial year.