

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance and Deregulation

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Comments by former Finance Minister

**Senator:** Abetz

**Question reference number:** F6

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA Committee, Page 42, 18 Oct 2011

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 2 December 2011

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator ABETZ:** That as well; that is a given. Has it come to the attention of other departmental officials then that at least one former finance minister was engaged in this conduct?

**Mr Tune:** I can ask my colleagues. Do you want me to line them all up here and ask them one by one, or do you want me to take it on notice?

**Senator ABETZ:** Take it on notice but this is a very serious matter because we often have debates and discussions about matters financial, as we should, and for a federal finance minister to basically brag about the way he misconducted himself—not conducted, but misconducted—is a matter of concern. I would have thought it was something that the department would have become aware of and may have, from time to time, provided him with briefing notes to indicate that that which he had said on the public record may not necessarily reflect the fact. If you could take that on notice and ascertain for me whether or not Mr Tanner ever received such briefing notes—I do not need to know what was in the briefing notes—and whether or not he was ever advised in relation to his public commentary. Just for what it is worth, in the *Hansard* of the budget estimates of Wednesday 25 May 2011, on page 142, you and I, Minister, had a discussion about matters cash accrual and whether it was over five or four years, where there seemed to have been, if I might say, this type of behaviour being engaged in either inadvertently, and I trust it was inadvertently and I will not put it any stronger than that, but we have one former Labor finance minister who brags about having done so to cause public confusion. That is the only question I have.

**Answer:**

The department is not aware of any advice to the former Minister for Finance and Deregulation on this issue.