

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: 1/ 1.1

Topic: OBPR and Deregulation

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F13

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) What percentage of bills introduced into the current Parliament have been subject to a RIS during development?
- b) Has there been a change in government policy regarding the completion of RISs?

Answer:

- a) A Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) is required for all decisions (including those resulting in a Bill) made by the Australian Government that are likely to have a regulatory impact on business or the not-for-profit sector, unless that impact is of a minor or machinery nature and does not substantially alter existing arrangements. There is provision for a decision to be granted an exemption by the Prime Minister from the RIS requirements for exceptional circumstances. Some regulatory proposals are non-compliant with the RIS requirements. The Office of Best Practice Regulation publishes an annual Best Practice Regulation Report, which lists the RISs completed and instances of non-compliance and exemptions in the relevant financial year.
- b) In response to feedback from the business community, the Government strengthened the best practice regulation requirements from July 2010 and these changes included measures to increase transparency and address falling compliance.