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: 2/2.1
Topic: Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy

Senator: Ryan
Question reference number: F28
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 2

Question:

a) Has AGIMO developed a reporting regime as outlined in the Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy?
b) If yes, could AGIMO please provide a copy of the guidelines underpinning the reporting regime?
c) What are the reporting requirements?
d) How often do departments have to report?
e) What do departments have to report on?
f) Are all departments complying with the request to report on their websites?
g) If no, when will it be produced?
h) What consultation has been undertaken between departments?
i) How many meetings?
j) How often does the group meet to discuss progress?
k) Who's on the working group coordinating the task?
l) What is the timeline for the production of the document?
m) How long has it taken to produce the reporting regime?
n) Has an audit of current websites been conducted by AGIMO?
o) How many websites do federal government departments have?
p) How many of these websites conform to the new standards?
q) How many of the websites do not conform?
r) Could you please provide a list of departments that do not currently conform to the new WCAG 2.0 standard?

Answer:

a) Yes.

b) The guidelines are described in the National Transition Strategy (NTS) which can be viewed on the Finance website at: http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/wcag-2-implementation/index.html.

c) Agencies are required to report their progress in implementing each Phase of the NTS, discussed in detail in the NTS chapter, 'Work Plan': http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/wcag-2-implementation/work-plan.html.

d) Agencies reported after the first Phase of the NTS (December 2010), and will be expected to report again at the end of December 2012 and December 2014.

e) Refer answer c).

f) No, 10 agencies did not respond. Together they represent less than 0.5% of all of Australian Government staff.

g) It is not clear to what 'it' refers. Reporting is required as described in d).

h) Consultation with agencies on accessibility, and WCAG 2.0 specifically, has been ongoing since 2008. Finance has consulted with agencies through a variety of channels, including meetings and briefing sessions. As outlined in the NTS, a WCAG 2.0 Reference Group was established to monitor progress and provide relevant input from an industry and societal perspective, as well as support consultation on accessibility policy amongst relevant agencies and jurisdictions. Agencies are also discussing accessibility through the AGIMO Blog, at: http://agimo.govspace.gov.au/category/accessibility/.

i) Since its inception in February 2010, the WCAG 2.0 Reference Group has met five times.

j) The WCAG 2.0 Reference Group meets three times per year (in April, August and December).

k) The WCAG 2.0 Reference Group is not responsible for coordinating the task of web accessibility implementation for the Australian Government.

l) It is not clear to which document this question refers. The progress report for Phase 1 is expected to be released in late 2011.

m) The reporting regime was produced as part of the NTS.

n) No.

o) As at December 2010, agencies reported 1338 websites. This includes internet, intranet and extranet sites.

p) Agencies do not have to meet the WCAG 2.0 targets until December 2012. The number of complying sites continues to change as transition continues.

q) Agencies do not have to meet the WCAG 2.0 targets until December 2012. The number of complying sites continues to change as transition continues.

r) Agencies do not have to meet the WCAG 2.0 targets until December 2012. The number of complying sites continues to change as transition continues.