

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011**

**Question: 84**

**Topic: Advice on Ineligible Applications**

**Asked By: Senator MCKENZIE**

**Type of Question: Written**

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

**Number of pages: 1**

Given so many applications were almost immediately ruled ineligible, why did it take so long for those applicants to be advised of their outcome?

**Answer:**

The Regional Development Australia Fund operates according to the: Commonwealth Grants Guidelines which are issued by the Department of Finance and Deregulation and govern the administration of Commonwealth grants programs.

Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Grants Administration Better Practice Guide, *Implementing Better Practice Grants Administration*, describes how programs should operate to meet the Commonwealth Grants Guidelines and achieve better practice.

The ANAO recommends that, as a matter of good practice, it is preferable for all decisions on approved and unsuccessful projects to be announced together as soon as practicable after the decisions have been made, or within a relatively short period of time (section 6.7 of the Guide).