

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Grant Programs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F107

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) On what date did your department receive advice from the government to pause certain grants programs?
 - i. How was the instruction received, and from whom was it received?
- b) Please list the dates the Minister for Finance met with senior department officials to discuss the grants pause and the Minister overseeing your department met with senior department officials
- c) From what date was your department told to implement the grants pause?
 - i. When did it do so?
- d) Has your department been provided with information regarding when the grants pause would end?
 - i. If so, what was the date?
 - ii. Was your department advised if it could communicate when the grants pause would end to grant applicants?
- e) Please provide the advice your department gave to Department of Finance regarding which programs should be included in the grants pause.
- f) Did your department receive advice/instruction from the Department of Finance regarding how best to communicate the grants pause to grant applicants, the media and other external stakeholders?
- g) What information has been provided to grant applicants regarding the grants pause? Please provide scripts if these have been given to call centres, or any other information sheets which have been used internally for discussing the grants pause with applicants.
- h) Has your department been advised by the Department of Finance of further grants pauses in the future? If so
 - i. When did you receive notification of future grants pauses?
 - ii. What is the date of future grants to be paused

- iii. Which grants programs will be paused?
- iv. What is total value of pauses in future grants programs?
- v. When will notification of these future grants pauses be made public?
- i) How many staff are employed to administer grant programs within the department?
- j) During the Grants Pause what activities are these staff involved with?
 - i. Have staff been moved to other divisions during the grants pause?
- k) During the Grants Pause are decisions on grants being made, but applicants not being alerted?

Answer:

a) On 28 August 2012 the Department of Finance and Deregulation released an Estimate Memorandum informing portfolio departments of the grants pause and sought information on grant rounds and programs in 2012-13 which were not advertised, and advertised rounds which were not finalised.

b) Nil.

The Minister for Finance and Deregulation meets with senior departmental officials regularly in the lead up to ERC meetings.

c) On 28 August 2012 the Department of Finance and Deregulation released an Estimate Memorandum informing agencies of the decision by the Government to pause grant rounds.

i. The grant pause was implemented as per the decision of the Government.

d) Yes.

i. The pause on grant programs ended with the release of the 2012-13 MYEFO. The outcome of the Government's decision was reported in the 2012-13 MYEFO and the Finance Minister's media release of 22 October 2012.

ii. Agencies were advised on 22 October 2012 they could communicate the end of the grants pause.

e) N/A.

f) N/A.

g) An email was sent to the eight grants-in-aid recipients on 3 September 2012.

h) No.

i. – v. N/A

i) 0.5 FTE.

j) Processing special financial claims under sections 33 and 34 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

i. No.

k) No.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Grant Programs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F107

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

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- j) During the Grants Pause what activities are these staff involved with?
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- k) During the Grants Pause are decisions on grants being made, but applicants not being alerted?

Answer:

The Australian Electoral Commission does not administer any grant programs.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: ComSuper
Outcome/Program:
Topic: Grant Programs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F107

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

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Answer:

ComSuper does not administer any grant programs.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Grant Programs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F107

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

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Answer:

The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation does not administer any grant programs.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Future Fund Management Agency

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Grant Programs

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F107

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages:

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Answer:

The Future Fund Management Agency does not administer any grant programs.