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Mr Alistair Sands  
Secretary  
Finance and Public Administration References Committee  
The Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Sands

**GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING (3)**

The action initiated in the High Court in relation to the government's advertising campaign for its proposed industrial relations legislation has drawn attention to another dimension of the issue before the committee, which goes much wider than that issue: the inability of the Parliament, under the financial management framework erected since 1997, to determine how much money is available for particular purposes or the purposes for which money is to be spent. This system has made it much easier for government to find large amounts of money for unanticipated advertising campaigns, or indeed anything else, without parliamentary approval (subject, of course, to what the High Court says on the matter).

Perhaps the committee would let me know whether it is interested in this aspect of the subject, so that some material could be assembled on it.

Yours sincerely

(Harry Evans)