

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2016-17

Finance Portfolio
28 February 2017

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: 2/2.5
Topic: Trans-Pacific Partnership

Senator: Rhiannon

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Question:

Senator RHIANNON: I will ask the other one. We might have been referring to the other one. I am not sure if this is the Department of Finance. I am trying to track it down where it is. There was another report. First, I want to understand if the department is involved. It has been reported that \$12.4 million over four years has been allocated to upgrade IT systems to deliver greater transparency of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

...

Mr Sheridan: I think you might be referring—I am not sure—to money that is put aside to support domestic review legislation or reporting in the context of AusTender for the TPP. So I think it is—

Senator RHIANNON: Yes. It sounds like that.

Mr Sheridan: I think it is either additional reporting that was required under the TPP or perhaps to support domestic review. But I would have to take the detail on notice.

Answer:

In the 2016-17 Budget (Part 2: Expense Measures, Cross Portfolio, Trans-Pacific Partnership – implementation), funding of \$12.4 million (GST exclusive) was approved to implement new mandatory reporting obligations for Commonwealth entities.

The changes require entities, covered by the *Commonwealth Procurement Rules* (CPRs), to report the reasons or exemptions for limited tender on contracts valued over the procurement threshold of \$80,000 (GST inclusive).

Under the measure, the funds were distributed across entities to upgrade their input systems, ancillary guidance and training materials, and to the Department of Finance (\$300,000, GST exclusive) for changes to AusTender, the Government's central procurement reporting system.

The upgrades are proceeding as a transparency improvement under the CPRs, in advance of Australia's proposed accession to the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Government Procurement.

Entities are responsible for managing their funding allocation to implement the changes.