

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: Public tenders for supplying goods and services

Senator: Roberts

Question reference number: F71

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Thursday, 13 April 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Does the Government have a policy for dealing with public tenders for supplying goods and services to organisations like TAFE for advantaging Companies that pay no tax in Australia over companies that do pay tax in Australia?
2. If not then why have two stationary supply companies (Staples Australia & Office Max international) with a history of not paying tax in Australia able to win contracts with Government departments (NSW) to supply cleaning products to hospitals?
3. Has the Government realised there are many small to medium sized Australia companies capable of supplying cleaning products to our hospitals , but they are unable to win the tender due to the onerous conditions of the tender and because they are at a competitive advantage when they pay income tax and if so, have they factored that into the tender process so the real value of keeping money in Australia is part of the decision process?

Answer:

Procurements by TAFEs and hospitals are the responsibility of the relevant state or territory government.