

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

**Question: SBT 151-152**

**Topic: Final Budget Outcome – Receipts and Revenue Tables**

**Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012**

**Senator JOYCE asked:**

Regarding the receipts and revenue tables in the 2011-12 FBO (ie Tables 3 and 4 of pages 5 and 8 respectively), they are clearly the most detailed and user-friendly, and particularly in relation to *tax* receipts and *tax* revenue. They appear to be best practice, which Treasury has primary carriage over. The same cannot be said about many of the other tables in the FBO – most of which lack a variation or “Change on 2012-13 Budget” column. This can be seen in Table 5 (page 10) on expenses, Table 6 (page 11) on net capital investment, Table 7 (page 13) on net worth and net debt, and in all the Financial Statements in Part 2. Also, fewer useful sub-totals tend to be provided – for example, Table 5 (page 10) on expenses. The Department of Finance has the greatest carriage over these tables. The equivalent tables in the MYEFO and Budget publications tend to also have no variation column and fewer useful subtotals.

151. Is it not true that including these conveniences, as the receipts and revenue tables do, would save many people across the country (and beyond) from each having to do the same calculations to arrive at these useful variations and sub-totals.
152. Is this something that the Department Finance, with the persuasion of Treasury, could consider in the upcoming MYEFO, Budget and FBO publications?

**Answer:**

As you have noted the Department of Finance and Deregulation has primary responsibility for the tables referenced in your question. We will raise your suggestion to change the presentation of these tables with the Department of Finance and Deregulation.