

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into Coronavirus Economic Response Package Amendment (Ending Jobkeeper Profiteering) Bill 2021

Division: Labour Market Policy Division
Topic: JobKeeper review - Deloitte
Reference: Spoken (10 September 2021)
Senator: Rex Patrick

Question:

Senator PATRICK: The three-month review basically stated that you guys commissioned independent consultants as risk and integrity advisers to ensure that program risks were identified, understood and managed effectively. Who were those advisers and what were they paid for that advice?

Ms Wilkinson: I'm happy to share that the risk advisers used were from Deloitte, and I'm very happy to take on notice the cost of that advice. I don't have that with me today.

Senator PATRICK: I'm just raising a concern and wondering how you might have managed this from a conflict-of-interest perspective. We don't know, because these things aren't disclosed—maybe they were recipients of JobKeeper and maybe many of their clients were recipients of JobKeeper. How did you manage to keep 'clean' advice in relation to that—noting that I'm sure they wanted to give fearless and frank advice to their customers also?

Mrs Brown: We can perhaps provide some additional information on notice, but risk practice within an organisation such as Deloitte has systems in place to ensure that the appropriate integrity is there.

Answer:

1. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu were engaged by Treasury as a consultant to provide risk and integrity advisory services in relation to a range of COVID response measures, including our administration and management of the JobKeeper program's risks.

Treasury publishes contract notices on AusTender in compliance with the finance law, including the value. However, due to the nature of the arrangements entered into with Deloitte, it is not possible to separate the amount paid for risk and integrity advice for the JobKeeper program alone.

2. Treasury is unable to comment on the internal arrangements of third parties.