

**SUBMISSION No. 4**

Reviews of Auditor-General  
Report's Nos 47(2010 -2011) - 9 (2011 -2012)

**Question No. 1**

Located on Page 3 of Hansard.

**CHAIR:** Thank you. There are just a couple of administrative issues at our end. We and the Senate Estimates committee have been trying to get some responses. I understand something was tabled last night as a response to questions on notice taken at the October supplementary estimates hearing, and several of those questions related to the ANAO report. Is anyone aware of that? The reason I raise it is that this is an information session for the members here. I just wanted to clarify, because from a very quick glance – they have gone live on the Senate website this morning – they do not look like adequate responses. Is there any consideration at your end of whether you feel you have answered those questions in a full and comprehensive way? From the conversations I am looking at, I suspect you are not quite sure what I am talking about.

**Ms O'Connell:** My understanding is that I do not think any of the answers to Senate questions on notice from estimates relate to the Infrastructure Employment Projects program. My recollection is that there were not any on the IEP program, but I can check and be corrected.

**CHAIR:** I am getting fed all sorts of bits of paper that say differently. Can you check that and make sure they are as comprehensive answers as possible.

**Ms O'Connell:** I will.

**Response**

There were two questions on the Infrastructure Employment Projects program at the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing in October 2011. They were question numbers 56 and 57.

**Question No. 2**

Located on Page 8 of Hansard.

**CHAIR:** So you define saving jobs as job creation?

**Ms O'Connell:** No.

**CHAIR:** I just want clarify this, because then there is a process attached to that. I have got projects in my electorate, as would every member of parliament, where there are campaigns to build something to save an event. But are you defining that as job creation?

**Ms O'Connell:** No. One of the four target areas was to create jobs or retain people in jobs that were at risk due to the downturn. That was one of the four target areas. So I am saying, consistent with that, that you have the ability from whatever the infrastructure investment is, to retain jobs. So there are direct jobs, and, as I said for the 12 projects, there were 2,749 people directly employed during construction. That is not a number that considers jobs that were retained as a result, say, of losing an event.

**Mr FRYDENBERG:** That did not take place in the first year though.

**Mr Jagers:** We do not have data to say when those people were working. It is something that we might be able to take notice but we do not have it.

**Mr FRYDENBERG:** Sure.

**Senator SHERRY:** Did you ask?

**Ms O'Connell:** For the job numbers?

**Senator SHERRY:** Yes.

**Mr Jagers:** I would have to check when we did ask. We will take that on notice.

**Response**

The Department received job estimates from all applicants as part of the assessment and decision making process. Reporting on jobs was required at the relevant milestones once funding agreements were signed.