

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 104
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Policy Analysis and Implementation (PAAI)
Topic: Register of Environmental Organisations
Hansard Page: 12
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Canavan asked:

Senator CANAVAN: Do you have the powers to do that right now? This is an Income Tax Assessment Act issue, so would you have the powers to subpoena documents and those types of things?

Dr Kennedy: I will take on notice the particulars of whether we sought that information. That will also allow me to just consult with colleagues about the usual practice—and we will do everything we can to respond to you in the usual way—of revealing information about particular compliance cases. I am sure we can address the issue.

Answer:

The Department does not have coercive powers under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* or the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*. The Department is able to refer matters to the Australian Taxation Office and/or the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission should it believe that a matter requires the exercise of such powers.