

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission

Question: BET 32

Topic: IT sophistication and IT resources

Reference: Hansard page no. 11 - 02 June 2015

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

Senator XENOPHON: Can you tell me, either now or on notice, whether the ACNC have the same level of IT sophistication and IT resources as they do in the UK?

Mr Locke: We do not have the same level, but I can take on notice the details of that.

Answer:

ACNC IT capability and development

The Charity Commission of England and Wales (the Charity Commission) is a well-established charity regulator. As the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) has only recently completed its establishment phase, its IT systems are not yet comparable to the Charity Commission.

The ACNC continues to develop its IT systems, with a particular emphasis on the searchable database of registered charities (the Charity Register), the user-experience for registered charities (the Charity Portal), information sharing with other government agencies (the Charity Passport), and our monitoring/compliance capabilities.

The 2015-16 Federal Budget allocated the ACNC funding of \$14.812 million, with over \$13 million in the follow three financial years. The table below sets out the forward budget estimates, as outlined in the 2015-16 Portfolio Budget Statements – Treasury Portfolio Budget papers, page 208.

Special Account Budget	2015-16 Budget \$'000	2016-17 Forward Year 1 \$'000	2017-18 Forward Year 2 \$'000	2018-19 Forward Year 3 \$'000
ACNC Special Account	\$14,812	\$13,893	\$13,467	\$13,227

International charity regulator resourcing

The ACNC notes recent funding commitments made by the governments of the UK and Canada to improve the IT monitoring capabilities of their respective charity regulators.

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In October 2014 the UK Government announced £8 million in new funding to help the Charity Commission prioritise its monitoring and enforcement work. The funding will be invested in new technology and frontline operations. This additional funding will provide the UK Charity Commission with greater sophistication and capability than the ACNC currently has.

The UK Government also announced the Protection of Charities Bill, which will allow the Charity Commission to ban people with certain convictions (such as terrorism or money laundering) from becoming a trustee in a charity.

In June 2015 the Canadian Government also committed \$10 million to the Canada Revenue Agency to help it build on its systems to detect and suppress terrorist financing activities in the charitable sector. The funds will also be used to help legitimate charities protect themselves from inadvertently supporting terrorism.