

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: BET 55

Topic: Market research and focus groups - part of the tax white paper process

Reference: Hansard page no. 61 - 02 June 2015

Senator: Dastyari, Sam

Question:

Senator DASTYARI: I will wrap-up because I think that answered it. Mr Brake, I believe that we determined at previous estimates that market research and focus groups were conducted as part of the tax white paper process. Have you or anyone in your unit attended, viewed or seen the results of focus groups?

Mr Brake: The work that we talked about at the last estimates was quantitative research. We obviously got the results of all of that.

Senator DASTYARI: So you got the polling numbers? I am a former party secretary, so I know a lot about polling. We know that there was a separate contract for polling—you have got the polling?

Mr Brake: We have not done anything further in that regard.

Senator DASTYARI: You got the polling though. The contracts, I think, related to the IGR, from memory—that is not a matter for you. You are saying that the only bit of market research you have received is quantitative polling?

Mr Brake: That is my understanding.

Senator DASTYARI: Was that one set of quantitative polling? Was it one poll? Did you get one set of figures? Was it a track?

CHAIR: This is his core strength here!

Mr Brake: We are not used to this! I think we got a baseline set of results and we have not done any follow-up on those results.

Senator DASTYARI: So you have got one set of numbers, one set of figures?

Mr Brake: That is my understanding.

Senator DASTYARI: You can take that on notice to confirm that. Take the date on notice—this year, last year, end of last year, July last year. What rough period are we talking about? I am not going to ask you for specific dates—though it appears that you have them, actually?

Mr Brake: No, I do not think that I do have those specific dates. I am just trying to recall—

Senator Cormann: We will take that on notice because we want to be accurate.

Senator DASTYARI: Do you remember if it was this year or last year?

Senator Cormann: We have taken it on notice.

In answer to question BET 55:

TNS was appointed to conduct quantitative research for the tax white paper process in November 2014. Findings were presented to Treasury in December 2014.