

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Commonwealth Grants Commission

Question No: 150

Topic: GST Distribution

Reference: Hansard page 66 (31 May 2017)

Senator: Polley, Helen

Question:

Senator POLLEY: The review from the Treasurer has been asked to report by the end of January next year. I just want to know whether the Prime Minister or the Prime Minister's department has sought any advice prior to his statement when he said that any changes to the GST distribution would be a few years away. Have you provided any advice to the Prime Minister's department or his office?

Mr Willcock: I can only repeat what I said to the last question. The work that we do is as a consequence of being tasked by terms of reference. Unlike being a department of state, we are, if you like, an arm's-length statutory authority set up under our statute. Our statute sets out a process whereby we are tasked through terms of reference.

Senator POLLEY: The assistant minister might want to answer this: is there any way that the federal government can guarantee that Tasmania and South Australia will not be any worse off from any changes that this review may bring down?

Senator McGrath: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator POLLEY: Is that because we have Western Australians in the room?

Senator McGrath: I will just have to take it on notice.

Answer:

The subject matter of this question is not within the responsibilities of the Commission.