

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Budget Policy Division

Question No: 168

Topic: Expanding Scope of Independent Agencies

Reference: Written

Senator: Roberts, Malcolm

Question:

Noting the enormous and growing size of government, is it the case that independent agencies such as the Productivity Commission (PC), Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) should be given more responsibilities and resources for such functions as budget transparency portals (like that advocated by the Australian Taxpayers' Association), dynamic tax modelling (based on Laffer Curve principles like the American Enterprise Institute's TaxBrain) and cost-benefit-analysis (CBA) of major policies, legislation and regulations?

Answer:

It is a matter for the Parliament to determine the responsibilities of statutory agencies such as the Productivity Commission, Australian National Audit Office, and Parliamentary Budget Office.