

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Budget Policy Division

Question No: 171

Topic: Government Expenditure

Reference: Written

Senator: Roberts, Malcolm

Question:

Is it the case that over some reasonable time-frame, Commonwealth Government expenditure could be radically reduced in three stages: firstly, 'corporate welfare' expenditure accounting for 5.9% of 2017-18 total expenditure; secondly, state & local government 'duplication' & 'welfare' expenditure accounting for 38.2% of such expenditure; and thirdly, 'social welfare' expenditure accounting for 36.5% of such expenditure?

Answer:

Under the Constitution, all Commonwealth Government expenditure must be appropriated by the Australian Parliament. The Australian Parliament may choose to reduce spending if it sees fit to do so.