

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15**

Finance Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 1/1.1

**Topic:** Funding for Royal Commission into the Home Insulation Programme

**Senator:** Dastyari

**Question reference number:** F35 and F36

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA Committee, Pages 119-122, 28 May 2014

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator DASTYARI:** Sorry, I am asking about the wrong one. I am asking about question F34 to the Department of Finance. The reason I am asking you is because you answered the question in the first place. If you look down at the bottom, there is an answer there which, Senator Cormann—sorry; Minister Cormann—

...

**Senator DASTYARI:** Okay. I assume, and again, Secretary Tune, you know this so much better than I do—this may be the wrong question to ask—but when there is a movement of funds of that kind—of \$6.7 million—from one part of one department to another, does Finance approve that?

**Mr Tune:** It depends what it is from and what it is going to. If it is within an outcome, it is usually at the discretion of the minister. If you are moving money across outcomes, it usually comes through us.

...

**Senator DASTYARI:** Did you sign a brief approving this course of action—the movement of the \$6.7 million?

**Senator Cormann:** I do not believe so, but if you want me to check that, I will.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Could you?

**Senator Cormann:** Sure.

...

**Senator DASTYARI:** If you can take on notice to confirm, because I will give you the benefit of the doubt about what you have said here today, that the Department of Finance has had no involvement whatsoever—in any way, shape or form—in the approval of the \$6.7 million from one royal commission to another royal commission.

**Senator Cormann:** I am happy to take it on notice.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Or notified or consulted, for that matter.

**Senator Cormann:** I am happy to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of Finance was advised of an underspend in relation to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (RC-IRCSA). This included savings of \$4 million in the capital budget for the RC-IRCSA and an additional \$2.7 million in departmental funding for the Attorney-General's Department that was available because the Commonwealth had not incurred the expected costs for its representation before the RC-IRCSA in 2013-14.

The Minister for Finance was not required to sign a brief approving a movement of funds. The Government agreed that expenditure on the Royal Commission into the Home Insulation Programme would be partially met from the existing resources of the Attorney-General's Department and this did not involve a movement of administered funds between years.