

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5 May 2016

QoN No.	Agency	Outcome / Program	Senator who asked	Broad Topic	Question	Type of Question: Hansard Page & Hearing Date or Written
1	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Wong	Date of final Budget consolidation run	<p>Senator WONG: How long did the final consolidation take?</p> <p>Mr Greenslade: The final consolidation, as you may well recall, is much quicker than the first one. It is at the end of the process. This one took more or less as long as it normally does, which is about four or five hours.</p> <p>Senator WONG: When was the penultimate one?</p> <p>Mr Greenslade: The one before the Thursday?</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Greenslade: I would need to check that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Mr Greenslade looked behind and no-one nodded, waved or did anything.</p> <p>Mr Greenslade: My recollection is that it would have been the Wednesday or the Tuesday, but I will check.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 19, 5 May 2016
2	Department of Finance	2/2.2	McAllister	Agencies exempt from the efficiency dividend	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Mr Bartlett, you outlined for Senator Rice the list of agencies which are exempt. Has that list changed from the last budget? Are there any inclusions or exclusions?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett: That is not my understanding, but I would have to take that on notice to confirm it. My understanding is that it is the same, but I would need to take that on notice to confirm absolutely that that is the case.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 32-33, 5 May 2016
3	Department of Finance	2/2.2	McAllister	Secretaries Committee on Transformation	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Ms Halton, can you remind me who is on the SCoT?</p> <p>Ms Halton: It is comprised of a subgroup of the secretaries board and all secretaries are welcome and indeed sometimes do attend for particular meetings or for particular items as they wish. There is a nominated membership, which one of the colleagues may have with us, but all the secretaries can attend and it is usually run in conjunction with the secretaries board meeting.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Can someone inform me who are the nominated attendees?</p> <p>Mr Bartlett: I can get the list; I do not have it.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Could you do that before we conclude?</p> <p>Ms Halton: Yes. For example, it includes the head of the Department of Social Services, it includes the head of the Department of Human Services and it includes representatives from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, but we will get you the proper list.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 35, 5 May 2016
4	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Wong	Finance's consultation on revenue measures	<p>Senator WONG: In respect of the revenue measures, was there any point in the process in which Finance was asked about or consulted on a costing?</p> <p>Ms Halton: I do not believe so but let me check. Consulted on a costing on the revenue measure?</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Halton: I am happy to take it on notice. I have got to find out.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 36, 5 May 2016
5	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Wong	Finance's consultation on revenue measures – Ten Year Enterprise Plan	<p>Senator WONG: There are a number of elements in the Ten Year Enterprise Tax Plan. Are you able to tell me whether Finance was consulted on costings for any of the measures?</p> <p>Ms Halton: I will take it on notice. I will have to ask officers whether there were some discussions that I am not aware of. ...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We are taking it on notice anyway.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 36-37, 5 May 2016

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6	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Wong	Efficiencies measures for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	<p>Senator WONG: I will quickly do a couple of things. The DFAT \$74½ million efficiencies measure on pages 97 and 98 of BP2—I assume, because some of it is already in the bottom line and there is a reprofiling, that is why the table and the measure description quantum do not add up?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can someone at least just assist me with the balancing item then. The numbers in the table which, I assume, are the reason for the reprofiling—a \$49.6 million spend for DFAT, a net save of \$24 million for Austrade and therefore a net spend of \$25.6 million. Can you just explain how you get to the \$74.5 million. I just want to understand what has already been provisioned in the budget.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You are not able to tell me that?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 40-41, 5 May 2016
7	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Wong	NBN – rate of return as outlined in the Corporate Plan	<p>Senator WONG: I am just trying to see here what rate of return was outlined in the last corporate plan. Do you remember, Mr Edge, in the 2016 plan?</p> <p>Mr Edge: I would have to check that.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 42, 5 May 2016
8	Department of Finance	2/2.1	Wong	NBN – set up of a financing strategies body	<p>Senator WONG: When was the decision made to set up this financing strategies body?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: If you are looking for a specific date, I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: It was already—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: It was a decision that was made as part of the budget process; that would be the accurate—</p> <p>Senator WONG: Funding for the measure had already been provided for by the government, so I am assuming it was made prior to MYEFO, no?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: It was a decision that was made as part of the budget process. In order to give you an accurate answer, I am going to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Fine. At whose request was it, or which department initiated it? How did it come about?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: Cabinet deliberative processes—</p> <p>Senator WONG: I am not asking about cabinet.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: That is where it was initiated.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Thank you. I did not ask that, but thank you for telling me that. When did cabinet discuss it?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am just telling you I am taking the specifics on notice in terms of times and dates.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 42-43, 5 May 2016

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9	Department of Finance	1/1.1	Wong	Indigenous Land Corporation – budget measure and concessional loan	<p>Senator WONG: Senator Scullion raised it with you before he essentially started to talk to other people about it? Senator Cormann: He raised it with me before putting a formal proposal into the budget process. Senator WONG: About when was that? Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice; I am not trying to be unhelpful but the whole budget process— ... Senator WONG: What due diligence was undertaken prior to the loan being approved? Senator Cormann: We might have to take that on notice. Senator WONG: Did Finance engage in any due diligence? Senator Cormann: Finance was involved in the process in the appropriate way. It is a budget measure. I have got to take on notice what— Senator WONG: They are two different questions, aren't there? There is the budget measure then there is the actual approval of the loan. Who approved the loan? ... Senator WONG: Okay, that is clear. Who is the approver? Senator Cormann: I might have to take this on notice. From memory, ultimately, I have to give approval, as does the Treasurer, in relation to this particular measure. ... Senator Cormann: The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, ultimately, has to get final approvals for terms and conditions from the Minister for Finance and the Treasurer. I will check this and, if there is anything else that I need to add to this, I will compliment my answer.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 46-47, 5 May 2016
10	Department of Finance	2/2.1	McAllister	Australian Hearing Services – nature of engagement with consortium	<p>Senator McALLISTER: What is the nature of that engagement, Mr Edge? Mr Edge: There have been a number of meetings with the consortium effectively to work with the consortium to identify what Finance and our advisers would require in order to effectively assess their proposal. Senator McALLISTER: Are you able to provide any written documentation about any of those meetings? Mr Edge: I would have to take that on notice. The discussions with the consortium are obviously commercially confidential. It would really depend on the nature of the material that you are requesting. Senator McALLISTER: I think it would be of interest to understand what kind of information the department will be seeking in evaluating the unsolicited proposal. The nature of that request from you to the proponents is presumably not commercially sensitive, and I think it would help us to understand what is being sought ...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 49, 5 May 2016
11	Department of Finance	2/2.1	McAllister	Australian Hearing Services – end of contracts	<p>Senator McALLISTER: And what is the term of each of those contracts? Is there an end point? Mr Jagers: I am not sure. I can find you the end dates of those contracts. They do go over the financial year and into next year. I think they are at the end of this calendar year but I would have to check that for you.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 50, 5 May 2016
12	Department of Finance	2/2.3	Bernardi	Update on the leases for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection	<p>CHAIR: Are you able to provide me with an update on the ACT leases for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection? Mr Edge: I think we provided some evidence last time we were before this committee that the Department of Immigration and Border Protection had commenced a process in the second half of last year for its accommodation requirements in the ACT. It approached the market in, I think, either October or November—or it may have even been earlier this year; I can check the detail ...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 52, 5 May 2016

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13	Department of Finance	2/2.5	McAllister, Wong	Government advertising – update on expenditure for year to date including campaigns considered by the Independent Communications Committee	<p>a) Senator McALLISTER: I want to talk about government advertising. Could you provide an update on the amount of advertising expenditure for the year to date; and can that be broken down into campaign and non-campaign advertising expenditure? Mr Smyth: I do not have an actual update on all of those campaigns on me. If we could take that on notice and get back to you— ... b) Senator WONG: Do you have what was approved in terms of expenditure on each of those campaigns? Mr Smyth: Not on me at the moment. Individual campaigns are the responsibility of individual agencies. ... Senator Cormann: We have taken it on notice, Senator Wong. ... c) Senator WONG: I think you have taken it on notice, but I do want to know: how many campaigns have gone to the ICC over the last few months? ... Senator Cormann: We have taken the question on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 56-57 and 61, 5 May 2016
14	Department of Finance	2/2.5	Wong	Government advertising – provision of advice from Finance	<p>Ms Van Veen: We provide communications advice with respect to advertising research that has been provided supporting the creative materials in terms of whether the research is supporting the materials going forward and whether the campaign is a sound one. Senator WONG: Can I put something to you and can you tell me if it is a fair summation of your role? You look at what the agency is proposing to do and whether that is a sound use of public funds, given the research and given the communications objectives. Ms Van Veen: Correct. Could just add something to your earlier point? You mentioned consistency with respect to the guidelines. We do not provide advice on that because that is the role of the Independent Communications Committee because they provide the compliance advice. Senator WONG: Their assessment is supposed to occur prior to the subcommittee of cabinet considering it? Ms Van Veen: That is right. ... Senator WONG: In answer to Senator McAllister you said there were 18 campaigns above the \$250,000 threshold on foot. In addition to those, for how many others have you provided the sort of advice you described? Mr Smyth: Can I take that on notice? ... Senator WONG: You do not know how many you have provided to, in addition to the 18? Mr Smyth: In terms of over \$250,000, I could certainly take that on notice and get back to you as quickly as possible. Senator WONG: I would appreciate that.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 59-60, 5 May 2016
15	Department of Finance	2/2.5	McAllister	Government advertising – list of campaigns costing less than \$250,000	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Is it possible for you to table a current list of those smaller campaigns? Mr Smyth: I am sure we can take that on notice. Again I just do not have a list of all of those— ... Senator Cormann: We have taken it on notice ...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 60-61, 5 May 2016

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16	Department of Finance	3/3.1	McAllister	<i>Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 - staffing numbers</i>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: ... Before lunch we discussed whether there had been any further changes since 1 April.</p> <p>Ms McGregor: There are no changes to the overall figure. That 425 figure is the one that people—</p> <p>Senator Cormann: That is the most recently available information. If you want an update from here, we will have to take it on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We have just told you we have given you the most recent available information, which is that of 1 April.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: That is the purpose of today's questioning.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am quite happy—and I have already taken it on notice—to look at whether we can provide you with any additional information. To the extent that there is further conversation that should take place in that context between the government and the opposition, I am happy to have it, as I always am.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 63 & 66, 5 May 2016
17	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Bernardi	<i>Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 - staffing for parliamentarians not affiliated with a political party</i>	<p>CHAIR: I have a genuine question in relation to this table, and it is something I have noticed in the Senate things as well. I have been going through the 'personal positions for parliamentarians not affiliated with a major political party', and on a separate page it has a 'recognised party', the Glenn Lazarus Team. What is the significance? Even though there is no significant difference in positions, why are they categorised as different—for example, Senator Bob Day from Family First versus a 'recognised party'?</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I will have to take that on notice ...</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 66, 5 May 2016
18	Department of Finance	3/3.1	McAllister	<i>Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 - staffing for former leaders</i>	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Can I ask about the allocation of staff to leaders? I note that Senator Abetz and the Hon. Warren Truss have both been allocated staff, given their status as former leaders. I understand the allocation to Senator Abetz is equivalent to that which was provided to Senator Faulkner.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I would have to take that on notice. I do not think anybody at this table was around when the allocation was made to Senator Faulkner. I suspect that it would be, but I am happy to confirm that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: That would be helpful.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: One of my advisers has just confirmed that Senator Faulkner did have a staffing position allocated to him as a former Labor Senate leader.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Yes, I think it was that level.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: I am honestly not aware.</p> <p>Senator WONG: You can take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Mr Truss is a former Deputy Prime Minister, and that is the basis on which it is indicated he receives the allocation in the table that is provided.</p> <p>Ms McGregor: I will check for you, but it is my understanding that when it comes to staffing for the opposition, for example, that whilst the overall allocation and levels might be made, it would probably then be up to the Leader of the Opposition to make the allocation in more detail. I will have to check and just see what the exact process is around that.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 66-67, 5 May 2016

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19	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Wong	Mr Damien Mantach – alleged misappropriation of funds – copies of correspondence	<p>Senator WONG: Okay. How are we going with respect to the 25 August letter?</p> <p>Ms Halton: We just looked at it. I think the question is that I do not know whether we legally can table it.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We will take it on notice. If we can, we will. We will make a decision quickly, but this does relate to legal proceedings, and we do have to take advice on whether there is a public interest immunity or not.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay. I would like a copy of correspondence from you to the Victorian Liberal Party.</p> <p>Senator Cormann: We have taken that on notice ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: So you wrote to Hope Earle the next day, requesting further clarification. I am asking for a copy of that letter.</p> <p>Ms Halton: Yes. We will take advice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: This is August 2015; we are obviously in May of the next year. I am trying to get a sense of the chronology. We have 25/8 and then we have the response from the secretary in writing—and you are taking on notice whether you can give me that.</p> <p>Ms Halton: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: And you are taking on notice the 25 August one as well.</p> <p>Ms Halton: Yes.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: So you write back on the 26th. Then what happens? Do you get a letter back?</p> <p>Ms Halton: Yes.</p> <p>Senator WONG: What is the date of that letter?</p> <p>Ms Halton: The 28th.</p> <p>Senator WONG: From Hope Earle, or Mr Kroger?</p> <p>Ms Halton: No, from Hope Earle.</p> <p>Senator WONG: On notice, can I ask for a copy of that letter?</p> <p>Ms Halton: Sure.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 70-71, 73-74, 5 May 2016
20	Department of Finance	3/3.1	Wong	Mr Damien Mantach – alleged misappropriation of funds – provision of details and advice	<p>Senator WONG: I want to give you the opportunity to correct me if I am wrong. Should I understand your evidence to be that the lawyers were not prepared to give you the details you requested until the criminal trial was resolved?</p> <p>Ms Halton: I was not party to those conversations, so I need to be careful about how I answer that. It may well be that I do not have all the facts. I am happy to check the facts for you.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can someone tell me what reason they have indicated? I get that you have your own internal advice et cetera. I am asking what reason was provided by these bodies.</p> <p>Ms Halton: That I cannot answer here. I would have to take that on notice because I was not party to those conversations.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Is anybody who was able to tell us?</p> <p>Ms Halton: I will have to come back on notice on this.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 75-76, 5 May 2016
21	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Wong	ASC – numbers of job losses since September 2013	<p>Senator WONG: Since September 2013, what is the total number of jobs lost at ASC?</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: For the number from September 2013, I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that information.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 76, 5 May 2016

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22	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Wong	ASC – change to the AWD schedule	<p>Senator WONG: I am happy to place on record that I understand that that is the case, Minister. Has there been any change to the AWD schedule?</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: Yes. We have formalised the next SCR, as we call it.</p> <p>Senator WONG: SCR? Just remind me about that.</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: I would have to get back to you on this—schedule change review or something. I am sorry; I would have to get back to you on this.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Okay.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 77, 5 May 2016
23	ASC Pty Ltd	General	Wong	ASC – reduction of workforce numbers	<p>Senator WONG: According to the timeline the build for the OPVs will not start until 2018. You referenced that. Do you have the capacity to sustain your shipbuilding workforce until then?</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: The OPV is the only program that has been announced that will affect our workforce between now and 2018. Those 640 jobs that we talked about, irrespective of OPV, will be reduced.</p> <p>Senator WONG: Can you tell me how many of those would be in each of the categories we discussed?</p> <p>Mr Lamarre: We would have to take that on notice. Is that something you would like us to do?</p> <p>Senator WONG: I am trying to get a sense of direct employees, contractors et cetera. I think the categories you used in a previous answer—so that would be useful, thank you.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 78, 5 May 2016
24	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Lines	Voting services on Barrow Island	<p>Senator LINES: ... They do it very well, every day of the week. The whole structure on Barrow Island has been through quarantine—massive steels, machinery and trucks and everything—so I do not really get why we cannot take flat-packed cardboard boxes and paper ballots onto the island. That is the piece I am really struggling with.</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I am happy to take that on notice and talk to Ms Nielson to find out where we are with that. I think when you last wrote—and I will correct my evidence here if I am incorrect—we contacted Chevron again to ensure that that was the answer, that we could not get access to the island.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 86, 5 May 2016
25	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Lines	Barrow Island – correspondence between the AEC and Chevron	<p>Senator LINES: I have subsequently had a look at the quarantine provisions—and, again, we did send you the letter that we sent to Chevron most recently. ... Presumably that would be in the correspondence you have had between Chevron and the AEC, where presumably Chevron said you cannot meet their quarantine standards. Is this something you can table today?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I will not be able to table it today but I am happy to take it on notice. We have got that correspondence. ...</p> <p>Senator LINES: I accept that. I really do want you to focus on Barrow Island because there are other senators here that have no doubt got questions to you. I have accepted at face value your letter to me where you said Chevron have said you cannot meet quarantine restrictions. As you just heard from Senator McAllister, was that written advice? How was that advice conveyed to you?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator LINES: How do we get to the bottom of this? How do we get the answers to these questions?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I have already said that I will take this on notice and give you an update on where we are with our negotiations with that and that is as much as I can do today.</p> <p>Senator LINES: Does that mean you have got ongoing negotiations with Chevron about an on-site polling place?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: No, I will find out where we are with the current state of play and provide you an update on that.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 85-86, 5 May 2016

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26	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Lines	Barrow Island – AEC’s meeting with Chevron	<p>Mr Rogers: The last meeting we had with Chevron was on 27 April.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Rogers: On 27 April—and, because I have not seen this before, I am going to have to confirm this detail—Chevron confirmed that we are not able to establish in-person voting facilities on Barrow Island.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator LINES: How long did the meeting go for on 27 April?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I do not have that detail in front of me. I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Carpay: I am reading from an email that has been forwarded to me.</p> <p>Senator LINES: Can you table the email.</p> <p>Mr Rogers: No. We will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Mr Rogers: When I see the email, I will know. I have not seen the email. Then I will make a decision about whether that can be tabled, but I am not going to table an unseen document. I think it is unreasonable for you to ask that. When I look at the email, I will see whether we can table it. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator LINES: Mr Rogers, just so that I can really understand what it is Chevron is saying you cannot meet with, do you think that by the end of this evening you could table the email that talks about the meeting you had with Chevron on 27 April? Secondly, do you think that by the end of the evening you could give to me whatever it is that Chevron think the AEC cannot meet in terms of quarantine restrictions? I would really appreciate it if you could provide them later tonight.</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I will certainly take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LINES: Thank you very much.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 86-87 & 95, 5 May 2016
27	Australian Electoral Commission	General	Xenophon	AEC’s use of Australian-made paper	<p>Senator XENOPHON: On notice, will you be able, ultimately—once the dust has settled and you have gone through the counting and other important issues that you have to deal with—to advise how much of that paper has been made in Australia?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I think we should be able to find that out, so I am happy to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: At this stage, you cannot tell us. In the meantime—</p> <p>Mr Rogers: But I can tell you at least for New South Wales and Tasmania—we have been able to ascertain that, and I will take the rest of that on notice.</p> <p>Senator LEYONHJELM: No South Australian paper.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON: But at this stage, two-thirds of it could be sourced from imported paper?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: Potentially, but, again, I will take that on notice.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 90, 5 May 2016

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28	Australian Electoral Commission	General	McAllister	Same-sex marriage plebiscite	<p>Senator McALLISTER: The government has previously said it wanted to hold this plebiscite before the end of the year. You have not received any instructions to prepare for such a plebiscite. Admittedly, it is now May—what kind of time frame would be required to prepare for a plebiscite of any kind?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: ... I think I have used the term previously that we would need about four months between those events. I think that is the advice I provided previously. I can check up on that for you. ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: I apologise for making you do this again, but when you last provided advice to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee did you provide advice about the costs of supporting the yes and no cases?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: When I said 'prepare the yes and no case': we publish the yes and no case—just to be specific. But I do not think we broke down that cost. I would have to take that on notice. There is a submission there, but I think we provided an overall figure rather than a breakdown of costs.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 91-92, 5 May 2016
29	Australian Electoral Commission	General	McAllister	Examination of the LNP's disclosures	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Have you undertaken any examination of the LNP's disclosures to establish that, or how have you arrived that view?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: I might just jump in. The news only emerged this week. I think you are referring to the media articles on Monday or Tuesday of this week, I think, from memory. We are aware of it. We did do a quick check to ensure, as Mr Pirani said, that there was no obligation. As to whether we have done any additional work this week, the answer is probably no, I suspect. But we are aware of it and we are looking at it. Unless Mr Pirani has other information that I am not privy to—</p> <p>Mr Pirani: The only thing I was looking at was whether we might have done a compliance review of the LNP, but it depends on the particular dates on which those payments are made. I recall that the article in <i>The Australian</i> mentioned payments, donations, in the period leading up to the 2013 election, but I am not clear—and I would have to take on notice—whether any compliance review has been done of the LNP in that particular financial year.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 94, 5 May 2016
30	Australian Electoral Commission	General	McAllister	Donation to the 'Fadden Forum'	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Can I ask about a separate media report that appeared in <i>The Australian</i>? I seek to table that also, Chair. It raises a donation of \$114,000 to the Fadden Forum in the space of just two months in the lead-up to the 2013 election. The article raises the question about whether or not this series of payments genuinely originated with Simone Holzapfel, or if in fact it came from a third party and was simply laundered through her to conceal the donor's true identity—</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: ... Is that story, that set of facts, something which gives you concern as the commissioner, Mr Rogers?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: ... I will have a look at it and read it.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: The reason I tabled this second article is that it raises the issue about whether or not there has been a deliberate attempt to conceal the nature of a donor. Is that something that the AEC will be considering?</p> <p>Mr Rogers: Again, I will have a look at reports and I will read what you have just tabled. I will examine it from there and come to a view.</p>	Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 96, 5 May 2016