

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Finance Portfolio
24-25 May 2017

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Subscription to the Department of Finance website

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: F47

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

a)

Senator McALLISTER: Does the website allow you to subscribe to receive updates on latest publications?

Mr Sheridan: I would have to check that. I provide the platform rather than the site itself.

Senator McALLISTER: Is there anyone here who can help?

Mr Sheridan: I could check very quickly.

Ms Hartland: I am being told it does not. We will double-check.

Senator McALLISTER: That is also my view. I was just checking whether I had got it wrong.

Ms Huxtable: We will have to take it notice. ...

b)

Senator McALLISTER: Okay. So why would the Department of Finance construct a website that does not allow us to subscribe to information from the Department of Finance?

Ms Hartland: I expect it is just a lag. We are currently looking at the website, both the intranet and the internet. I would have to take it on notice, because it might be part of a next process for it. I do not know.

Answer:

a) The website does not allow people to subscribe to receive updates.

b) This feature was not available on the platform (Dreamweaver) when the website was constructed in 2007. The website was moved to a new platform (Drupal 7) in 2015. A subscription feature was available in Drupal 7 but was never built into the finance.gov.au website.

A subscription service for the department's website has therefore not been available but is a feature that will be considered in the future.