

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: 1/1.1

Topic: Sunset dates for new Commonwealth Bodies

Senator: Gallagher

Question reference number: F57

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Question:

Senator GALLAGHER: There is a sentence which talks about the Commonwealth governance policy requiring sunset or review dates to be set for the creation of new Commonwealth bodies. So I am asking: who is captured by that statement—what agencies?

Senator Cormann: We will have to take on notice any examples, but the government's policy, as part of our smaller government agenda, is that that is the standard that ought to be applied. But we will take on notice which new bodies are captured by that.

Senator GALLAGHER: And also when their sunset or review dates come up?

Dr Helgeby: On the Finance website there is a thing called the Australian Government Organisations Register, and it provides searchable information about individual entities which does include sunset dates, where those are known.

Senator McALLISTER: Can you search on the basis of whether or not an entity has a sunset date?

Dr Helgeby: That is probably beyond my—

Senator GALLAGHER: My guess is that you cannot, but—

Dr Helgeby: I will take that one on notice. I will have to go and have a look at it.

Answer:

The Governance Policy requires that all new government bodies must be allocated a sunset or review date. Departments of State do not need sunset or review dates as their ongoing existence is determined as part of the Administrative Arrangements Order process.

Sunset and review dates should be based on the purpose of the government body and when key milestones are likely to be met. Sunset and review dates should not be more than 10 years after the body's establishment. For government bodies established to address short to medium-term policy issues, sunset and review dates should not be more than five years.

Dates for indicated bodies are published on the Australian Government Organisations Register, after the dates are determined. The register is available at <http://directory.gov.au>.