

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: ASL offsets

Senator: Kitching

Question reference number: F62

Type of question: Hansard Proof, 25 May 2017, F&PA Committee, page 56-57

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator Cormann: The way this works—and we had this discussion yesterday—is that the government has a commitment to keep the overall non-Defence ASL at or below 2006 or 2007 levels. We manage that across the whole of the Public Service based on government priorities. There is an offset rule in place. If an agency wants to engage in a new activity, in the first instance the request is for them to seek to do that by reprioritising within existing resources, essentially providing ASL offsets, in order to undertake that additional work. On some occasions, that is not possible, and in that context there is a process in place where agencies can apply for dispensation from the offset rule, but across the whole of the government in aggregate we certainly manage things such that we can continue to maintain our commitment in relation to overall non-Defence ASL numbers.

Senator KITCHING: Which agencies have applied to have dispensation?

Senator Cormann: This is part of the deliberative processes of cabinet. I will take it on notice and assess to what extent we might be able to assist you, but it is something that is part of the cabinet-in-confidence budget process.

Answer:

As the requests from entities for an exemption from the ASL offset rule pertain to Cabinet-in-Confidence matters, it is not possible to provide details.