

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: 2/2.1
Topic: Future Fund assets

Senator: Roberts
Question reference number: F150
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Rather than government foolishly pretending to be a competent investment firm with taxpayers hard-earned money, why doesn't the government use this money to pay off its huge debt and/or give it back to taxpayers?

Answer:

The Future Fund was established to make provision for unfunded superannuation liabilities that will become payable during a period when an ageing population is expected to place significant pressure on the Commonwealth's finances. As at 31 March 2017, the value of the Future Fund was \$129.6 billion. The Future Fund has returned 7.7 percent per annum since inception (2006), exceeding the target rate of return set by the Government. Future Fund earnings exceed the Government's cost of borrowing.