

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Variances between financial estimates of various schemes

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F143

Type of question: Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 74, 20 November 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Wednesday, 31 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: One of them was assistance to the unemployed and the sick, which was \$180 million lower than estimated. There were a range of them. For financial and fiscal affairs, the outcome was \$658 million lower than estimated at the 2014-15 budget; assistance for the aged was \$397 million lower than estimated at the 2014-15 budget; assistance to people with disabilities, \$196 million lower than estimated at the 2014-15 budget; and assistance to families with children, \$221 million higher than estimated at the budget. I was trying to ascertain if Finance can enlighten me about whether (a) it can be unpacked into particular programs or, if you cannot do that, (b) you can give me a reason for why it might be higher in some cases and lower in others. Some of them are not demand driven programs, either.

Ms Huxtable: I have reasons in respect of some of the ones that we have already discussed, because I have the variances in order, but I do not have reasons for everything in that table. So it might be easier if we take that on notice; then we can go to those very specific issues.

Answer:

The Department of Finance listed key drivers that explained significant variances at the functional level during the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on Thursday 20 November 2014. More granular information at a programme level is not held by the Department of Finance. This question is best directed to each individual portfolio Minister.