

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Department of Finance
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Ministerial responsibility of Finance's outcomes

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F27

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 80, 20 October 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator LUDWIG: Yes, I was going to come to that. Before you had a SMOS, a finance minister and an assistant minister. Was there a delineation of the activities of the assistant minister? In other words, did the assistant minister have responsibility for certain parts?

Ms Halton: Yes, the assistant minister had responsibility for certain parts. Obviously, we no longer have an assistant minister.

Senator LUDWIG: So the minister is now responsible for all of those parts. What parts were they?

Ms Halton: Property, act of grace—

Senator LUDWIG: I am happy for you to take it on notice.

Ms Halton: I will do that. There is one variation to this which, as you would know, is in relation to the handling of some high-volume areas of responsibility. But probably the easiest thing for us to do would be to outline how it all works in a question on notice, if that suits you.

Senator LUDWIG: Yes. And you will include the Special Minister of State in that, and the delineation between that amount?

Ms Halton: Yes, absolutely.

Answer:

Responsibilities of the Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann and the Special Minister of State, the Hon Mal Brough MP are listed below:

Minister for Finance

- Budget policy advice and process, and review of governmental programmes;
- Government financial accountability, efficiency, governance and financial management frameworks, including grants and procurement policy and services;
- Shareholder advice on Government Business Enterprises (GBEs) and commercial entities treated as GBEs;
- General policy guidelines for Commonwealth statutory authorities;

- Superannuation arrangements for Australian Government civilian employees and members of parliament and retirement benefits for Federal Judges and Governors-General;
- Asset sales;
- Commonwealth property policy framework, legislation and policy for the management of property leased or owned by the Commonwealth, including acquisition, disposal and management of property interests;
- Management of non-Defence Commonwealth property in Australia, including construction, major refurbishment, sustainability, acquisition, ownership and disposal of real property;
- Administration of the Australian Government's self-managed general insurance fund (Comcover);
- Whole of government information and communications technology, other than that related to government service delivery;
- Policy advice on the Future Fund, Nation-building Funds and the DisabilityCare Australia Fund; and authorisation of payments from the Nation-building Funds and the DisabilityCare Australia Fund recommended by relevant Agencies; and
- Official Establishments, ownership and property management of the Prime Minister's official residences.

Special Minister of State

- Electoral matters;
- Administration of Parliamentarians' entitlements; and
- Co-ordination of Government Advertising.

The Assistant Minister for Productivity also has authorisation to act on behalf of the Minister for Finance in relation to the following:

- Act of Grace requests and waiver of debts owed to the Commonwealth under paragraph 63(1)(a) and section 65 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*; and
- matters under the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*.