

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 29, 30 & 31 May 2007

Question: bet 76

Topic: IGR 2 –ABS & Defence

Hansard Page: E40/41

Senator SHERRY asked:

I have a couple of other questions on the *IGR*. If we go to charts 3.13 and 3.18, where is the underlying data information for 3.13 and 3.18?

Mr Tune—This is Defence that we are looking at?

Senator SHERRY—Yes, let us look at Defence—3.13. Where are the underlying figures?

Mr Tune—As chart 3.13 says, it is based on ABS data and the Department of Defence annual reports from various years. We have built up the historical series from those.

Senator SHERRY—In the ABS data and the Department of Defence annual reports, is the data actually given in number terms?

Mr Tune—Dollar terms?

Senator SHERRY—Yes.

Mr Tune—Yes, they have been given in dollar terms, and then we have had to put that as a proportion of GDP to derive the chart.

Senator SHERRY—Yes, I know what you have done, but if I go to ABS data and the Department of Defence annual reports, will I actually get that dollar figure that you have graphed?

Mr Tune—Have we manipulated the data or done something to it—is that what you are saying?

Senator SHERRY—No, I did not say that or imply that in any sense.

Mr Tune—We would do something to the data to be able to derive it. We might need to take that one on notice to give you the detail of that.

Senator SHERRY—It is actually the raw numbers for the graph figure. The dollar figures are not available in a chart. As I understand it, if you go to ABS or the Department of Defence, it is not there. This is clearly data prepared by Treasury based on those documents.

Mr Tune—Absolutely.

Senator SHERRY—I accept that, but the actual dollar numbers are not published in either of those two sources. You have calculated it yourself on the historical data?

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Mr Tune—Yes.

Senator SHERRY—You have produced a graph, but the actual table of the numbers is what I would like to see.

Mr Tune—We will have to take that on notice.

Answer: The data used in the graph for the years 1965-66 to 2000-01 can be found in *Year Book Australia, 2001* (catalogue number 1301.0), as updated 8 December 2006, from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The data for the years from 2001-02 to 2005-06 can be found in or derived from the corresponding Defence annual reports.

Correction to the record: Senator Sherry then asked if there had been previous requests for this data and was told that there had not been. Officers attending were unaware that the Parliamentary Library requested the dollar amounts for the past 10 years on behalf of a Member in April 2007.