

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 29

Topic: Medicare Levy Surcharge – Advice provided to Government

Hansard Page: E55

Senator Cormann asked:

1. Before I get into it, can you tell us the date when you first provided advice to the Government about the proposed change?
2. Did you provide advice on means testing of the 30 per cent rebate?
3. Did you provide advice on abolishing the 30 per cent rebate and on changes to the Lifetime Health Cover arrangements? For each of those questions, could you let us know when you provided that advice?

Answer:

1. During the ongoing discussions and delivering of advice between the department and the Government, it is at times difficult to determine a precise date when matters first arise. However, our records indicate that the earliest that advice regarding the changes to the Medicare levy surcharge thresholds could have occurred is January 2008.
2. Any advice on these matters would have formed part of the budget process.
3. Any advice on these matters would have formed part of the budget process.