

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates 1 - 2 November 2006

Question: **sbt 13 (ABS)**

Topic: **Question Time Briefs**

Hansard Page: **Written**

Senator LUDWIG asked:

With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Minister's on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the department/agency provide:

- (1) The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06).
- (2) The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at.
- (3) The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities.
- (4) The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3.

Answer:

(1)

Financial Year	Number of Briefings
2003-2004	0
2004-2005	0
2005-2006	3

- (2) One Executive Level 1 officer (Salary range: \$74,006 - \$81,406).
- (3) The Parliamentary Liaison Unit. The Unit's responsibilities include preparation of ministerial briefings; coordination of responses to ministerial correspondence and parliamentary questions; cabinet liaison; secretariat support for high level meetings including the Australian Statistics Advisory Council (ASAC); production of the ABS and ASAC annual reports; and management of ABS policy issues.
- (4) Given the very small number of Question Time Briefings coordinated by the Parliamentary Liaison Unit, the diverse range of tasks with which the Unit is involved, and the difficulties in determining the budget of the Unit itself (as it is part of a broader section with overlaps in responsibilities), it is not possible to provide a definitive response to this question.