

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

21 – 22 October 2009

Question: sbt 61

Topic: Organisation of Economic Co-operation & Development

Hansard Page: E73 (22/10/09)

Senator LUDLAM asked:

Senator LUDLAM—Let us just pause there. Where could I find a work plan, an annual report or some kind of summary of what that office is doing? Just give me one example: how much time do you spend liaising with the Australian mining industry operating overseas? Estimates, I suppose, is about establishing where you are allocating your resources, and I realise they are scarce. If this office has no staff, how do we know what it actually does?

Mr Colmer—The OECD puts out an annual report on the National Contact Point system. I think it is important to recognise that this is fundamentally an OECD function, which member countries contribute to. Around May of every year, we provide input to the annual report from the OECD—I do not believe that the last one is out yet—and then that is published as a consolidated document by the OECD probably towards the end of the year.

Senator LUDLAM—If I go to that, will I find a chapter on the performance of the Australian office—

Mr Colmer—Yes.

Senator LUDLAM—or is it aggregated as a whole?

Mr Colmer—Yes, you will.

Senator LUDLAM—Are you able to provide to us the last annual report or at least the section as it refers to Australia?

Mr Colmer—We can do that, yes.

Senator LUDLAM—Thank you; I would appreciate that.

Answer:

Each year the OECD publishes an annual report on its Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. The report provides an account of the actions the 42 adhering governments (including Australia) have taken over the previous 12 months to enhance the effectiveness of the Guidelines. Previous annual reports can be obtained from the OECD at:

http://www.oecd.org/document/53/0,3343,en_2649_34889_2512693_1_1_1_1,00.html

The 2009 Annual Report has not yet been published. However, the report that the Australian National Contact Point submitted to the OECD on its activities, is provided at:

http://www.ausncp.gov.au/content/docs/388_440_ANCP_Annual_Report_2009.pdf