Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Estimates Hearings 14-18 February 2005

Question: F8

Outcome 1, Output 1.2.1

Topic: Agencies investing under the *Audit Act 1901*

Hansard Page: F&PA 37

Senator Sherry asked:

Were there less agencies investing moneys prior to the 1997 legislative amendments than currently exist?

Answer:

The Auditor-General report No. 31 of 1997-98 – *Aggregate Financial Statement prepared by the Minister for Finance and Administration* reported investments by 11 agencies in relation to 25 trust accounts as at 30 June 1997. These 25 trust accounts were invested under either a delegation from the Finance Minister or separate legislative provisions.

Currently under section 39 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* (FMA Act) 11 agencies have been delegated investment powers by the Finance Minister in respect of 12 special accounts. In addition, there is currently one other agency that invests amounts standing to the credit of a special account under a separate legislative provision, rather than under a delegation from the Finance Minister.

The Central Public Account or Official Public Account as it is now known was invested under section 21A of the Audit Act and is currently invested by the Australian Office of Financial Management via a delegation from the Treasurer under section 39 of the FMA Act.