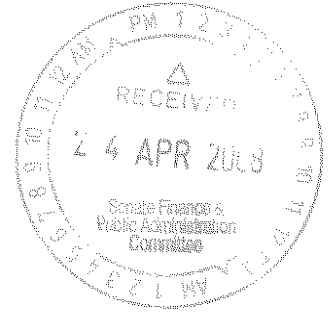


**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio  
Department of Finance and Deregulation  
Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2008**



**Question: F52**

**Outcome 1, Output 1**

**Topic: Savings measures – Apprenticeship incentives for Agriculture and Horticulture**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 73**

**Senator Brandis asked:**

**Senator BRANDIS**—Apprenticeship Incentives for Agriculture and Horticulture...I would like to know what steps were made by or on behalf of Mr Tanner to inform himself, and those who made this decision, as to the impact on those affected by it.

**Senator Sherry**—Yes.

**Senator BRANDIS**—You might include in that answer, if you would please, how many individual apprentices are likely to be affected by these reductions. It seems a lot of money over four years: \$47.7 million chopped out of incentives for agricultural and horticultural apprenticeships.

**Senator Sherry**—I will, but I just make the point that that is a detailed issue for that department. You could not reasonably expect it of Finance, but I will endeavour to obtain the information for you.

**Answer:**

1. The decisions taken by the Strategic Budget Committee of Cabinet were made following the provision of departmental advice, and had regard to the possible effects on stakeholders.
2. It would not be appropriate for the Department of Finance and Deregulation to answer questions in relation to programs that are the responsibility of other portfolios. The committee should direct this question to the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.