Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 1/1.1

Topic: Grant Reporting Requirements

Senator: Cormann

Question reference number: F13

Type of question: Hansard F&PA Committee, page 69, 14 February 2012 **Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator Cormann: You did mention that the ANAO uncovered occasions when a minister awarded a grant against departmental advice. I think there were 11 such occasions. Can a list of these 11 grants be provided or is that secret information?

Mr Tune: I think so. I will take that on notice but I think that is okay.

Answer: The Commonwealth Grant Guidelines provide that Ministers will report annually to the Finance Minister, by 31 March each year for the preceding calendar year, all instances where they have decided to approve a particular grant which the relevant agency has recommended be rejected.

All 11 instances were compliant with the Commonwealth Grant Guidelines.

Reported instances of grants awarded by Ministers were made available by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation on 21 March 2012

(http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2012/mr mar 2012 47.html).