

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2013-2014

Finance Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Debt repayment for MOP(S) Act employees

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F147

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- 1) In regards to the repayment of debts to the department, what is the department's policy when it comes to the over collection of debts by the department from either members and senators or *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* (MOP(S) Act) staff?
 - a. Provide a copy of this policy and the date it was implemented.
- 2) Does the department seek to repay an individual if they have overpaid a debt owed to the department?
- 3) What is the smallest amount that the department has sought to repay to an individual who has overpaid a debt owed to the department?

Answer:

1) Section 28 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997* requires a refund of any overpayment of debt. Finance procedures involve:

- contacting the payee to confirm the overpayment;
- seeking advice from the payee whether to refund or in case the overpayment is a small amount, whether to refund or write it off; and
- processing the refund and submitting to the applicable delegate for authorisation.

(a) The internal procedure has been in place for a number of years and we are unable to identify date of creation.

2) Yes.

3) \$0.50.