

**ESTIMATES 2007-08 — BUDGET ESTIMATES, MAY 2007****Questions on Notice index—Finance and Administration Portfolio**

| <b>QON No.</b> | <b>Department / agency</b> | <b>Senator</b> | <b>Hansard Reference</b> | <b>Question</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Comments</b>                                                                                 |
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| 1.             | DOFA                       | Wong           | F&PA 9                   | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—I understand. So how much of the \$12.8 has been expended thus far?</p> <p><b>Mr Miles</b>—Directly in relation to this, I would not be able to tell you.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—We can get you an answer.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Answer received<br>24/07/07                                                                     |
| 2.             | DOFA                       | MURRAY         | F&PA 11                  | <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—Is there any reason why this plan, which is near completion if I understood the answer to my question correctly, cannot be released either in full or in outline to members and senators so they know what is going on?</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—I cannot see a problem with that. We will have a look at it, and I expect there would be no reason why it could not be released. But we would have to at least do the Special Minister of State the courtesy of consulting with him on the subject.</p> <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—Thank you.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | answer received<br>24/07/07<br>(DOFA will not provide information until the plan is finalised). |
| 3.             | DOFA                       | MOORE          | F&PA 13-14               | <p><b>Mr Miles</b>—Certainly, the brief to UGS included a requirement that we receive something which could be sent out to electorate offices giving them some useful hints on how, with their own actions, they could reduce the energy footprint. I do not think that the notion of actually providing training has been specifically considered, but it does sound like a good idea. It could be factored in to some of the training that we already provide to electorate staff.</p> <p><b>Senator MOORE</b>—Is it possible to see the brief that went to the people to do this work? Is there a problem with seeing that?...</p> <p><b>Senator MOORE</b>—I just think that there are people out there who want this to happen and it is best to engage them in it. That might be a useful thing.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—We are happy to have a look at that. As we said to Senator Murray, we will provide that to you on notice subject to the Special Minister of State being comfortable with it.</p> | Answer received<br>11/02/08                                                                     |

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| 4. | DOFA | FAULKNER | F&PA 17 | <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—When was the department first apprised of the proposal?</p> <p><b>Ms Mason</b>—I would need to take that on notice. It is hard to pin down a precise date when the issue first arose. We would need to check our records.</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Have you engaged with the Security Management Board here in Parliament House on these sorts of issues?</p> <p><b>Ms Mason</b>—I attend the meetings of the Security Management Board...</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—With the role of attending the Security Management Board, you are not able to indicate to me when this idea kicked off?</p> <p><b>Ms Mason</b>—Not without checking our records.</p>                                                                      | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 5. | DOFA | FAULKNER | F&PA 20 | <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—Yes, it was improving. What is the current compliance rate?</p> <p><b>Ms Mason</b>—In terms of details, I think we would need to take that on notice to check what the current compliance rate is. At any one moment in time, there will be some clearances that are not yet in place because staff have not yet completed their documentation. There have also been some changes in staff in recent times, which means that there could be a bit of a lag there. We can take that on notice and check.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 6. | DOFA | MURRAY   | F&PA 24 | <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—... I would like to ask you on notice, please, to provide the names of members and senators who have not certified in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Ignore the current financial year.</p> <p><b>Ms Hughes</b>—Is that the end of financial year report that you are interested in?</p> <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—Yes. In doing so, could you indicate in respect of any member or senator whether there is a dispute? If there is a dispute, there might be a legitimate reason for not certifying an account. Could you also indicate whether the member or senator is no longer with us—I assume if somebody has died they could hardly have certified their accounts—or if they have left office?</p> <p><b>Ms Hughes</b>—Certainly.</p> | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 7. | DOFA | MURRAY   | F&PA 25 | <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—That is my question, Ms Mason. By all means come back to me, but, as far as I understand it, it is an administrative matter. The employer will discipline the staff member. There is no criminal law penalty and</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |

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|     |      |          |         | there is no penalty under the Public Service Act or the MOP(S) Act.<br><b>Ms Mason</b> —We shall check.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |
| 8.  | DOFA | FAULKNER | F&PA 26 | <b>Senator FAULKNER</b> —What is the longest period of non-cooperation? I am not going to identify the individual. What is the longest current period of non-cooperation that we have?<br><b>Ms Mason</b> —We would need to take that on notice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 9.  | DOFA | FAULKNER | F&PA 27 | <b>Senator FAULKNER</b> —How many clearances are outstanding currently?<br><b>Ms Clarke</b> —I do not have the information on me. I would have to take that on notice.<br><b>Senator FAULKNER</b> —How many clearances as of today's date are outstanding for three months?<br><b>Ms Clarke</b> —Again, I will take that on notice.<br><b>Senator FAULKNER</b> —I will make the cut-off as of yesterday's date. Thank you.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 10. | DOFA | WONG     | F&PA 30 | <b>Senator WONG</b> —While I am going through things with Mr Miles, can you find out what documentation you have regarding costings for the current financial year of increases in ministerial staffing? Someone is nodding. Does that mean they will find out or they have it?<br><b>Ms Clarke</b> —They will find out.<br><b>Senator WONG</b> —They will find out.<br><b>Senator Colbeck</b> —Senator Wong, just to let you know, it might take a little while and we will provide you with costings for government increases as well as opposition and other parties.<br><b>Senator WONG</b> —Because you want to provide both; is that right?<br><b>Senator Colbeck</b> —I think it is reasonable that both are put on the public record—I think that is a reasonable response.<br><b>Senator MURRAY</b> —It is perfectly reasonable.<br><b>Senator WONG</b> —Yes. You could also check the percentage increase you have imposed since coming to government on the number of staff you have in the ministerial portfolios. | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 11. | DOFA | Wong     | F&PA 33 | <b>Senator WONG</b> —I just want to check something: what is a senior adviser's salary currently?<br><b>Senator Colbeck</b> —It depends on the scale. There is a scale of salaries for                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Answer received 11/02/08 |

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|     |      |          |         | <p>senior staff...</p> <p><b>Mr Miles</b>—We do not have the figures with us at the minute, but I think we are able to get them fairly quickly.</p> <p><b>Ms Mason</b>—Yes, we should be able to get those quickly.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                             |
| 12. | DOFA | WONG     | F&PA 37 | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—I think people should be entitled to know what the additional cost is of the variances to government staffing that have been provided.</p> <p><b>Ms Clarke</b>—Indeed. We could do it, but it is just not available now because it is done in the budget cycle, and that is not due just yet.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—It is 7.2 at a particular position level—but net, in terms of various positions.</p> <p><b>Ms Clarke</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—Can you provide that on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms Clarke</b>—Yes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 13. | DOFA | FAULKNER | F&PA 39 | <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—I am happy to table the advertisement. It was for the Hon. Chris Pearce, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer. Anyway, the issue I want to raise is that I have no particular problem with this apart from insuring that we have government and non-government members being treated the same and equitably.</p> <p><b>Senator Colbeck</b>—Fair question.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—Can you remind us of the provision about appointment within the band? Where does that authority derive from? Which guideline is that in?</p> <p><b>Ms Clarke</b>—The appointment within the band, generally, for senators and members, is drawn from the collective agreement, and you can point to the first three. A separate determination has been made by the Special Minister of State which gives added flexibility to ministers, parliamentary secretaries and opposition office holders to appoint staff anywhere in the salary band. It does not extend to shadow ministers.</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—No, but to opposition office holders.</p> <p><b>Ms Clarke</b>—Office holders, that is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator FAULKNER</b>—I understand that. What you say is totally logical and I would understand that to be the case, but it appears that this is in the advertisement. I assume you would not put an advertisement in a newspaper if</p> | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |

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|     |      |        |         | you decided to employ a person. I do not really want to go into the background of Mr Pearce's situation. I want to understand the broad principle and make sure the application here is appropriate for the government and the opposition. So I will leave that with you.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                             |
| 14. | DOFA | WONG   | F&PA 42 | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—You never know what I could make sense out of!</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—I can assure would not make any sense out of this! We are happy to take it on notice if you would prefer, but I can give you a brief summation now, if you want.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—Okay—very brief, though.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—There are three components. First of all, relocation costs—</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—Sorry; I am going to have to ask you to take it on notice, if you could.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—All right, we will take it on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                      | Answer received<br>24/07/07 |
| 15. | FFMA | SHERRY | F&PA 48 | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—What about an Australian financial services licence, which is issued by ASIC?</p> <p><b>Mr Costello</b>—Northern Trust is going through all the regulatory approval processes at the moment. I would need to check exactly which areas they have been given dispensation for. They are well aware of the regulatory hurdles and I understand they are well on track to being addressed.</p> <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—So that I understand, you say they are well on track. Have they yet received a licence to operate in Australia?</p> <p><b>Mr Costello</b>—I would need to confirm that. I understand that is well on track. I am not sure exactly where that is at as of today.</p>                           | Answer received<br>19/06/07 |
| 16. | FFMA | SHERRY | F&PA 56 | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—I am specifically referring to their activities when involved as the custodian of the Future Fund, not their other activities.</p> <p><b>Mr Costello</b>—Sorry, now I am confused.</p> <p><b>Senator Minchin</b>—What you just gave, I think, Mr Costello, was the total staffing of Northern Trust in those centres.</p> <p><b>Mr Costello</b>—Right.</p> <p><b>Senator Minchin</b>—The question I think goes to how many staff are likely to be actively involved or primarily involved in servicing the Future Fund as the client.</p> <p><b>Mr Costello</b>—I think that is a very hard question to answer because, of course, there are parts of staff all around the world at any one time acting on our</p> | Answer received<br>19/06/07 |

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|     |      |       |         | business. One of the features of the global custody market is that economies of scale are very large and technology is very important. The main role that people play is checking when things do not work and when automated systems do not work. If that information is important I think I would need to take that on notice. I could not give an accurate answer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                             |
| 17. | DOFA | BROWN | F&PA 60 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—I would appreciate it if you could supply me, if there is a list, with the other agencies or instrumentalities that have indemnities for board members. The minister might help you in getting that list together.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—We will see what we can do, Senator.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Answer received<br>6/07/07  |
| 18. | DOFA | BROWN | F&PA 60 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Thank you. The directors of the Future Fund have been making some very important decisions for which the government does not take responsibility. We have heard about that in the last hour or so. Is there any prospect that the Future Fund directors will be indemnified for those decisions which are not an outcome of government policy but for which the directors make their own decision?</p> <p><b>Senator Minchin</b>—It is a little tricky answering this before we finalise the indemnity with them. I will take on notice the issue of making public the nature of the indemnity, which is really what you would be seeking us to do. Let me take that on board. Prime facie I am not sure whether there is any difficulty in doing that but I do not want to definitively promise to you that it can be done. At the moment, I do not see why not, but I would like to consider that.</p> | Answer received<br>6/07/07  |
| 19. | DOFA | BROWN | F&PA 60 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—When was the board appointed?</p> <p><b>Senator Minchin</b>—Late last year.</p> <p><b>Ms Campbell</b>—It was last year.</p> <p><b>Senator Minchin</b>—At this stage we are at the end point of negotiating the actual terms of the indemnity and there has been some toing and froing on this.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—But when was the board appointed?</p> <p><b>Ms Campbell</b>—We can get that information for you.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Answer received<br>6/07/07  |
| 20. | DOFA | BROWN | F&PA 63 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—So why the indemnity?</p> <p><b>Ms Campbell</b>—There are some risks that are not insured. Most corporations take out insurance and then there is an indemnity as well.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—What are those risks?</p> <p><b>Ms Campbell</b>—I do not think we have that detail with us at the moment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Answer received<br>12/02/08 |

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|     |      |         |          | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Can you provide it to the committee?</p> <p><b>Senator Minchin</b>—We will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Ms Campbell</b>—We can take it on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                             |
| 21. | DOFA | BROWN   | F& PA 64 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Would you check that it was discussed with each board member before they were appointed?</p> <p><b>Senator Minchin</b>—We will take note of your request.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Answer received<br>9/08/07  |
| 22. | DOFA | FIFIELD | F&PA 71  | <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Does the Governor-General in Council give effect to these?</p> <p><b>Ms Campbell</b>—We would need to check on the detail of that.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Answer received<br>6/07/07  |
| 23. | DOFA | SHERRY  | F&PA 72  | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Dr Watt, I placed on notice on 28 March about 18 questions that went to some matters relating to efficiency dividend wage cost indices and, in outcome 3, the processing of travel allowance forms. Do we have a response to those, please?</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—Do we have one yet?</p> <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—I think the answer is no. I see all questions on notice that the department does, and I would remember the efficiency dividend one, Senator, as we so often discuss it—</p> <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—I am sure you would.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—and wage cost indexes. I can find out how far we are away and where they are for you.</p> <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Can you let us know later in the hearing?</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—Yes, during the course of the hearing.</p> | Answer received<br>12/02/08 |
| 24. | DOFA | SHERRY  | F&PA 77  | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Is Finance able to provide the total amount of actual depreciated expense for each of the years 2000-01 through to 2005-06 funded through prices of outputs, appropriations or other appropriations?</p> <p><b>Ms Campbell</b>—We would have to take that on notice and see how easy it would be to do that. We can, of course, go to the financial statements and look at the expense that an agency put in for depreciation. Whether or not that was funded may be a little harder to track, but we will take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Answer received<br>28/06/07 |
| 25. | DOFA | SHERRY  | F&PA 77  | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—I anticipated that would be the approach. And what about the total amount of actual expenditure on asset replacement for each year over that period that I have just referred to?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Answer received<br>13/07/07 |

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|     |      |        |         | <b>Dr Watt</b> —We can take that on notice. I will just make one point: it is easy to pick up the large items but we just will not pick up some of the asset replacement that agencies do themselves.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                          |
| 26. | DOFA | SHERRY | F&PA 77 | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Also, could you take on notice the additional appropriations that have been necessary to fund asset replacements, where they have occurred?</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—By that do you mean where the initial appropriation has proved insufficient?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Answer received 12/02/08 |
| 27. | DOFA | MURRAY | F&PA 78 | <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—Dr Watt, I am a bit concerned at the potential—maybe it does not exist in practice—for panels to last longer than the cycle of a government, which is three years, a triennial period. Could I ask you on notice, perhaps, to think about that and to come back to us with whether you think that needs to be reviewed? I would have thought it should be subject to a finance minister’s direction if there is an open-ended possibility. I cannot see a circumstance where a panel would not need to be refreshed every three years but it might need some further thoughts. Could you think about it—</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—We are happy to take that on notice.</p>                                                       | Answer received 10/08/07 |
| 28. | DOFA | SHERRY | F&PA 83 | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Yes. I understand there was a recent actuarial recalculation of the military fund liabilities, which I will get to, which led to a greater unfunded superannuation liability. That was one of the reasons for there being a greater unfunded superannuation liability calculated for 2019-20. Was the figure of \$2 billion—an approximate figure, obviously—made before or after the recent recalculation of the military superannuation actuarial calculation of new liability?</p> <p><b>Ms Campbell</b>—We just need to confirm when the military actuarial reassessment was. The \$2 billion figure is quite a recent figure that we have had updated by actuaries, so I expect it would take it into consideration.</p> | Answer received 28/06/07 |
| 29. | DOFA | MOORE  | F&PA 95 | <p><b>Senator MOORE</b>—Can we put on notice, rather than go through it now, what staff you are looking at recruiting, the project plan you have for your staffing and what levels and how many—that kind of thing? We will just put that on notice.</p> <p><b>Ms Steward</b>—Certainly; we are happy to take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Answer received 24/07/07 |
| 30. | DOFA | MOORE  | F&PA 95 | <b>Senator MOORE</b> —Can you provide us with a list, again on notice, about what agencies would be able to be accessed in this way—for example, Immigration, passports, Centrelink, Tax, or people wanting to go in and find out about quarantine laws through the Department of Primary Industries? I just want to know what routes you can use through this enhanced process. Can I get                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Answer received 24/07/07 |

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|     |          |        |          | <p>that on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms Steward</b>—Certainly. We would envisage that there would be access to a range of government agencies.</p> <p><b>Senator MOORE</b>—Who are currently online?</p> <p><b>Ms Steward</b>—Yes, that is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator MOORE</b>—So if there was an agency that did not already have an e-service, this service would not provide that for them.</p> <p><b>Ms Steward</b>—No. I will take that on notice in order to be able to provide you with further detail but, yes, it would be difficult to make an access point to them if they were not online.</p>                                                                                                                     |                                                                              |
| 31. | ComSuper | SHERRY | F&PA 101 | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Will there also be reference to the income tax treatment of non-super income at age 60?</p> <p><b>Mr Markovic</b>—I cannot tell you that off the top of my head. I do not recall seeing that in there. I would need to take on notice whether or not that is included in that mail-out. I certainly know the other items are included.</p> <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—It has been an issue of contention and a fair amount of comment. I am just wondering why it would not be included. Again, it is a different form of treatment, justified or not, for public sector employees.</p> <p><b>Mr Markovic</b>—I can take on notice whether or not that is included in the mail-out material.</p> | Answer received<br>26/06/07                                                  |
| 32. | ComSuper | Sherry | F&PA 101 | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—I have a couple of questions on that proportioning rule and the impact on hypothetical lump sum amounts pre and post the changes which I will put on notice. I will put them on notice because I would not expect you to provide a detailed response here and now.</p> <p><b>Mr Bator</b>—Senator Sherry, at the last Senate estimates you asked whether ComSuper had received its benchmarking results from the international benchmarking that we were involved in. We do have it now for defined benefit schemes—and, as I indicated, for the PSSap, it will not be available till August—but I can provide that other report for you here today.</p>                                       | <p><b>Please see attachment below</b></p> <p>Answer received<br/>9/08/07</p> |
| 33. | DOFA     | Wong   | F&PA 102 | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—I would like to unpack that a little bit more in terms of the dates on which advice was provided.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—I would not know them here. I can take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Answer received<br>12/02/08                                                  |
| 34. | DOFA     | Wong   | F&PA 103 | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—When did Finance see those costings—that table? When did</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Answer received                                                              |

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|     |      |        |                | <p>you see that document, or did you not?</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—I would have to defer to my colleague.</p> <p><b>Mr Suur</b>—The draft documents relating to the announcement made on 1 May were provided to us before the announcement, to check. I cannot recall exactly when but it was a few days before the announcement.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—Was that your area?</p> <p><b>Mr Suur</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—In less than a week or more than a week? I understand that you cannot tell me exactly how many days before.</p> <p><b>Mr Suur</b>—It was a matter of days.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—As a result of Finance checking the documents, were any alterations or corrections made?</p> <p><b>Mr Suur</b>—I cannot recall. I will have to take that on notice.</p> | 12/02/08                 |
| 35. | DOFA | Wong   | F&PA 103       | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—Do you have any knowledge of a range of documents associated with this announcement containing incorrect figures and having to be reprinted?</p> <p><b>Mr Suur</b>—I need to check that. It does not come immediately to mind. I will have to take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Answer received 12/02/08 |
| 36. | DOFA | Wong   | F&PA 103       | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—No, but you checked them and I am trying to work out whether any of the changes were as a result of Finance checking the document. You had an involvement in checking the costings in the document. So you have no knowledge of such an event, Mr Suur, or anyone in your area?</p> <p><b>Mr Suur</b>—I will have to take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Answer received 12/02/08 |
| 37. | DOFA | Sherry | F&PA 111       | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—What is Mr Doogan's position at the High Court?</p> <p><b>Mr Scott-Murphy</b>—I will have to get back to you with the accurate description, but he is the chief registrar, I believe.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Answer received 28/06/07 |
| 38. | DOFA | SHERRY | F&PA 112       | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Just going back to the trees, how many trees are involved in this shift?</p> <p><b>Mr Scott-Murphy</b>—I do not have that accurate information in front of me. If you wish, I can respond with that at a later time.</p> <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—Yes. If it were daylight, I would say that we should go and have a look. Please take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Answer received 6/07/07  |
| 39. | DOFA | SHERRY | F&PA 113 - 114 | <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—...The role of the department in the sale of the TGA building in Symonston in 2002; I have a few questions on that. How was the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Answer received          |

|                      |      |        |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                             |
|----------------------|------|--------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                      |      |        |            | <p>sale managed?</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—We will see what we can do, but I am not sure that I have anyone who was involved in that sale still in the department, certainly not in the relevant area. I thought it was 2001.</p> <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—I have 2002.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—Perhaps the proceeds were collected in 2002.</p> <p><b>Senator Minchin</b>—It is before my time.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—Certainly, Senator Minchin and I were not involved—at least not significantly—in the sale of the building. Senator Minchin arrived at the end of 2001 and I arrived in 2002. We might have a pinch hitter.</p> <p><b>Senator SHERRY</b>—There might be some information that officers have about the rental arrangements of the building, which would be a more current issue.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—We have been down this road on rental arrangements before, as you know. I think the problem for us is that we do not do not have a detailed understanding of agencies' rental arrangements and never have had. I am happy to take the questions on notice if you like, but I think we would have no-one who could go back to that tonight.</p> | 12/02/08                    |
| 40.                  | DOFA | MURRAY | F&PA 114   | <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—The most important figure is the appropriation bill figure, not the budget figure. The one thing I would not like to see is the appropriation bill reflect the \$1.1 billion, not the EM's \$1 billion and \$70 million. Do you get it?</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—Yes, do get it.</p> <p><b>Senator MURRAY</b>—Otherwise somebody has \$30 million they should not have. Perhaps I could leave it at this: please double-check that that has not occurred...</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—Following the line of your questioning, we are happy to check that. While none of us will be back here tomorrow, we hope, we are happy to get an answer back as quickly as we can.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Answer received<br>13/07/07 |
| Thursday 24 May 2007 |      |        |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                             |
| 41.                  |      | WONG   | F&PA 14-15 | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—And you are not able to give me a breakdown of the allocation of media costs between the six weeks and the three weeks?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Answer received             |

|     |     |            |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                               |
|-----|-----|------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     |     |            |            | <p><b>Ms Urbanski</b>—No.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—Are you able to take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms Urbanski</b>—Yes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 11/02/08                                                                                                                      |
| 42. | AEC | WONG/BROWN | F&PA 15-16 | <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—Senator, I have an update for your information. We have been able to ascertain some details in relation to the number of showings of the advertisements. I cannot go down to the detail that I think you would be interested in. In broad terms, for the first two weeks on free-to-air television the advertisements will show in Sydney 102 times, in Melbourne 92 times and in Brisbane 99 times. That is all I can give you...</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—There must be a non sequitur there, but I cannot think of one right now. In two weeks they will show 102 times in Sydney, 92 times in Melbourne and 99 times in Brisbane, and no-one can tell me about Adelaide and no-one can tell Senator Brown about Hobart.</p> <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—We will take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—We might have those numbers before we break.</p> <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—If I could give you some advice, Mr Campbell: I would really get those figures on the public record soon.</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—We will see if we can get them before we rise.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—<u>I would add regional Australia.</u></p> | <p><b>Answer required for regional Australia only, (capital cities answered at p. 20)</b></p> <p>Answer received 11/02/08</p> |
| 43. | AEC | WONG       | F&PA 16    | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—I think at the last Senate estimates I was going to move on to the teachers resource kit and the School and Community Visits Program at this point. Mr Diak, do not leave the building in case I have to come back to you. I think in answer to a question on notice—I believe to Senator Faulkner, or it might have been Senator Ray—it was indicated that the presentation kit and teachers resource kit would be finalised in May and copies would be provided to this committee once finalised. Have these resources been completed yet?</p> <p><b>Ms Urbanski</b>—The resources are near completion and we are expecting them to be ready in June. The construction of these products has been complex because there are a lot of interactive DVDs as well as booklets, and there is some packaging around it. That has taken longer than we had hoped, but they are well advanced and they should be out in June.</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—We will provide copies to the committee when they are</p>                                                                                                                                         | <p>Teachers resources kit provided 15/08/07</p>                                                                               |

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|     |     |       |         | available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                             |
| 44. | AEC | BROWN | F&PA 20 | <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—I actually do not have the information or the rationale behind the number of showings in Hobart with me at this stage.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—It does not come down to an intelligence rating?</p> <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—It certainly does not.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—It would be interesting to know what the reason for the disparity is. Could you provide the committee with that?</p> <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—Okay.</p>                                                                                                                    | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 45. | AEC | BROWN | F&PA 20 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—You do not have figures for Launceston or Bathurst or other—</p> <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—I do not have them here but I could drill to that level to provide that sort of information to you on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Thank you.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 46. | AEC | WONG  | F&PA 30 | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—Is there anything you can provide me with which explains in greater detail how you came up with that target [for an increase in roll figures]?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—We can do that.</p> <p><b>Mr Moyes</b>—We can take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 47. | AEC | BROWN | F&PA 38 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Did you make inquiries about the validity of this address for Willmac Enterprises at North Rocks, New South Wales?</p> <p><b>Mr Bodel</b>—I am trying to find one of the letters but I am pretty sure we sent a letter to that address and we got a response from Stephen Hales. I cannot confirm that at the moment—I am trying to dig one out.</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—We could take that on notice for you.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Could you furnish that response to the committee?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—We will take that on notice.</p> | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 48. | AEC | BROWN | F&PA 38 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—It says in your answer to a previous question I asked Mr Bodel that, when it comes to Willmac Enterprises spending \$370,461, the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Answer received             |

|     |     |                   |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                             |
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|     |     |                   |         | <p>total amount spent on seven electoral advertisements and pamphlets was \$92,350.35. Five of the seven items were electoral advertisements. The amount spent on these items was \$57,000. The expenditure disclosed by Willmac Enterprises on advertising was \$190,000. On what was the missing \$133,000 spent?</p> <p><b>Mr Bodel</b>—I could not tell you precisely but we know there were a series of other advertisements involved.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Can you give the committee that information?</p> <p><b>Mr Bodel</b>—I do not think that would jeopardise the AFP inquiry.</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—I would like to take that on notice to make sure we are not compromising the AFP referral.</p> | 11/02/08                    |
| 49. | AEC | BROWN             | F&PA 38 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—In response to a question at the last committee meeting, Mr Bodel said:</p> <p>The remaining two of the seven items were pamphlets. The amount spent on these items was \$34,914. The expenditure disclosed by Willmac Enterprises on campaign material requiring authorisation, which includes pamphlets, was \$59,600.</p> <p>Can you tell me where the missing or unaccounted for \$25,000 was spent?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—Again, I will take that on notice in line with my previous response.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                        | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 50. | AEC | BROWN             | F&PA 38 | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Mr Bodel said that the balance of expenditure disclosed by Willmac Enterprises, \$120,667, was spent on direct mailing. Where was it spent on direct mailing and what was directly mailed?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—Again, we will take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Did that include direct mailing in Tasmania?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—We will take that on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |
| 51. | AEC | FIERRAVANTI-WELLS | F&PA 46 | <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—Perhaps you could take that on notice and provide me with a detailed response about what would happen if the vote was very close and in particular the sorts of checks that you would undertake.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Mr Bodel</b>—I think I can probably provide you with a preliminary answer now.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Answer received<br>11/02/08 |

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|     |     |       |            | <p>I will go away and check that this is accurate—<br/>...</p> <p><b>Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS</b>—In any case, this matter was raised recently. I will provide you with a copy and perhaps you might add that to your list of matters to which you are providing answers on notice.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                          |
| 52. | AEC | WONG  | F&PA 49-50 | <p><b>Senator WONG</b>—As I recall, on the last occasion you said that you would. On 13 February, three months ago, you said:</p> <p>The outcomes of that review would obviously be available to the committee—<br/>that is what you finally provided today—</p> <p>Whether or not the full review would be made public is something I would need to consider when I read it ... I am sure that by the time we are together again in May I will know my way through and have things to give to the committee.</p> <p>We are in late May and I am asking for the remainder of the report.</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—When we met on 13 February we were at the very early stages of formulating how we were going to do the targeted review that we are now embarked upon. In a sense, the report itself and the other things in the report itself are now being influenced in terms of, if you like, knowledge and understanding by what we are finding out in the targeted review. I will give a date—say, in two weeks time. Now all of our states are quite a way through our targeted enrolment strategy, I would like time to read what feedback they are giving us—and they are giving us both data feedback and anecdotal feedback—to see whether it has any impact upon some of the thoughts in the report, and then I can provide it to the committee in two weeks time.</p> | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 53. | AEC | BROWN | F&PA 53    | <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—For the purposes of the Electoral Act you mention there the word ‘entity’.</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—That might not be the correct legal terminology. Section 328 of the act refers to persons, and my understanding is that person includes a separate legal entity.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—Like a political party?</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator BOB BROWN</b>—So if a political party is putting out advertisements it</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Answer received 11/02/08 |

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|     |      |                   |         | <p>is sufficient to say that this pamphlet or video is authorised by the Australian Labor Party or the Australian Greens, for example?</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—We would need to take advice on that and get back to you as to whether a political party is, in terms of a person as defined in the law, a separate entity. Certainly we have had advice that the Australian government is a separate legal entity.</p> |                          |
| 54. | DOFA | Bartlett          | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 28/06/07 |
| 55. | DOFA | Murray            | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 6/07/07  |
| 56. | DOFA | Faulkner          | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |
| 57. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 58. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 59. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 60. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 61. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 62. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 63. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received 11/02/08 |
| 64. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Answer received          |

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|     |      |                   |         |                             | 11/02/08                       |
| 65. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answered<br>received 12/09/07  |
| 66. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08 |
| 67. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08 |
| 68. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08 |
| 69. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08 |
| 70. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answered<br>received 12/09/07  |
| 71. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answered<br>received 12/09/07  |
| 72. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08 |
| 73. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answered<br>received 12/09/07  |
| 74. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answered<br>received 12/09/07  |
| 75. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answered<br>received 12/09/07  |
| 76. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08 |
| 77. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answered<br>received 12/09/07  |
| 78. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08 |
| 79. | AEC  | Fierravanti-Wells | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08 |
| 80. | DOFA | Wong              | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer                         |

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|     |          |        |         |                             | received<br>11/02/08                                                             |
| 81. | DOFA     | Wong   | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08                                                   |
| 82. | AEC      | Murray | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>11/02/08                                                   |
| 83. | ComSuper | Evans  | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>9/08/07<br><br>-Parts a, b, d,<br>and e interim<br>answers |
| 84. | ComSuper | Evans  | Written | Please see attachment below | Answer<br>received<br>9/08/07                                                    |

Please note that answers 1 - 84 are due by 6 July 2007.

**Written QON**

**F 54 (BARTLETT)**

What is the final cost of building the new detention centre on Christmas Island?

**F 55 (MURRAY)**

With reference to the Agreement on Social Security between Australia and the Hellenic Republic signed on 23 May 2007, whereby both countries will share responsibility and costs for the social security coverage of eligible age pensioners in their retirement years, according to their period of residence/insurance - please provide the estimated annual budget cash cost (for the four forward budget years).

**F 56 (FAULKNER)**

What costs have been incurred by Comcover in relation to the case of Mr Trent Smith?

Such costs to be itemised by purpose (eg: provision of legal advice) and listed chronologically.

**F 57 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Further to my questions at the estimates hearing on fake address enrolment, please provide details of the any regular program in place to check that addresses are real?

**F 58 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Describe in detail any street-walk program in place at the AEC and the frequency with which this occurs.

**F 59 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Please provide full details of all enrolment card mail-outs since the 2004 election, incl. electorates covered.

**F 60 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Please provide full details of all vacant lot checks since the 2004 election, incl electorates covered.

**F 61 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Please provide full details of all abandoned houses checks since the 2004 election, incl electorates covered.

**F 62 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Please provide details of all electorates where multiple voting was experienced at the last Federal election.

**F 63 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Where there have been instances of multiple voting at the last federal election, please specify what action, if any, was taken in each of those federal electorates where the multiple voting was experienced.

**F 64 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

In relation to questions F 57- F 62, did you adopt any form of priority eg. Were investigations in marginal seats given priority?

**F 65 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Can the AEC step through their process for testing enrolments if they are challenged. In so doing, can you explain how long each step in the process takes.

**F 66 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

In a media statement on 20th June 2006, under the heading “Greater identity requirements for enrolment” Alan Griffin had this to say:

“This will make it harder to enrol and therefore to be part of the democratic process. It will increase the administrative burden on the AEC and potentially disenfranchise thousands.”

Since the new laws have been in place, if Mr Griffin’s statement were true it would expected that there would have been a large decline in enrolments since the laws came into effect. Has this been the case?

**F 67 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Does the new proof of identity requirement assist the AEC in testing the veracity of enrolments?

**F 68 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

What measures are in place to deal with verification of identification when electors enrol and change enrolment details? What proof of identify checks are undertaken? Is the AEC aware of usage of false drivers licences and Medicare cards.

**F 69 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

What active steps are being undertaken at the AEC to remove ineligible names from the electoral roll.

**F 70 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

What consultations have been undertaken with the NSW Electoral Commission following the 24 March election.

**F 71 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Is the AEC aware of any loss of integrity where polling booth officials issued ballot papers without asking the legally required 4 questions. Is the AEC aware of any instances where no questions were asked at all and issuing Ballot papers without initialling them.

**F 72 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Is the AEC aware or media reports of the removal of legitimate voters’ names from the roll (“600,000” reported in Daily Telegraph) and the reporting of multiple voting?

**F 73 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Is the AEC aware of a caller on 2GB reporting having used his card to vote at 15 different polling booths to prove how easy it was to multiple vote?

**F 74 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

In the Division of Banks many ballot papers had been incorrectly sorted at the polling booth on election night, including obviously informal votes being included in the polling booth counts. Is the AEC aware of this? If so, what actions were taken in relation to this. Is the AEC aware of such practices being observed at polling booths in subsequent Council elections and at the recent NSW State election.

**F 75 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Has the AEC investigated technology that could facilitate checking of the electoral roll through networked polling places.

**F 76 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

On 7 November 2005, Mr Bruce Kirkpatrick wrote to the Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. Was this correspondence referred to the AEC and has the AEC dealt with the matters therein. If so, could the AEC provide a copy of that reply. If the matters were not addressed, can you provide a response to the same.

**F 77 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Is the AEC aware of any complaints that have been made to the NSW Electoral Commission regarding voting processes and if so, what action does the AEC intend to take to avoid such irregular voting processes occurring at the next federal election.

**F 78 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Further to my questions on 13 February 2007, can you please specify the actions that have been taken in relation to my questions on returns pertaining to the CFMEU and the AMWU.

**F 79 (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)**

Further to my question regarding the member for Gorton, please provide details of any investigation into matters raised by Mrs Bishop in the House on 27 February 2007 as follows:

**Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP (Mackellar)**

(9.17 pm)—I am rather disappointed in the last speaker, the member for Melbourne Ports. I usually have a higher regard for him, but I have never heard so much rubbish or hypocrisy spoken in my life. Today in this chamber the member for Indi—a good friend and colleague—was perfectly properly correcting the record that had been so wrongly placed the night before by the member for Gorton. He is a little-known member in this place, but he is certainly well known in the union movement. Indeed, from the years 1993 to 2001, he was the Assistant National Secretary of the Australian Services Union. And guess what? During 1998 to 2001, that same union, using three related entities—but still the Australian Services Union—donated \$240,000 to the Labor Party. And guess what? It did not declare it. Only for one year, the year of 1999-2000, did he bother to put in his return that they had in fact donated \$12,000, when the ALP's own return showed that in that year they had donated \$75,000—a discrepancy of \$63,000.

The little-known member for Gorton—though he is a well-known trade unionist—talked about \$15,000 as a hefty donation. Well, what the hell do you call \$240,000? I put it to you, Mr Speaker, that when the member for Indi was very properly correcting the record today, she was ejected from the chamber while defending herself. If we go further into the records of the ASU and the assistant secretary, from 1998—which is the farthest we can go back—up until 2001, with the exception of the year 1999-2000, not one ASU declaration was filed. We picked up the numbers from the ALP declaration. What of the precedent set by this trade unionist who now calls himself a member of parliament? That same person set such a good standard that, in the year 2005-06, the same standard was adhered to. No return was filed by the ASU—not filed at all—yet, in that year, \$100,000 was donated to the ALP. And you stand there tonight whingeing about the fact that the Friends of Indi filed a late return—and they have filed—for \$15,000.

There is not the faintest suggestion that the former assistant secretary of the ASU was trying to correct the record. It is hypocrisy, with a record like this, to come in here and to give somebody a hard time. It is outrageous and it should be condemned at the highest level. We have always known about the cosy

relationship between the unions and the Labor Party, which is simply the political front for the trade union movement. Here it is in black and white—\$240,532 donated and not disclosed, with the exception of a miserable \$12,000. One can only conclude it was deliberate, aimed to mislead or incompetence. In any case, the member for Gorton and now, by implication, the member for Melbourne Ports stand condemned. As I said, I am disappointed in the member for Melbourne Ports. I had often thought much higher of him. I thought his standards were better, but he has dragged himself into the little-known member for Gorton's attempt to besmirch a good member by getting into bed with him and his nasty trade union deceit.

**Mr Haase—Shame!**

**Mrs BRONWYN BISHOP**—It is shameful and it should be condemned in this place. The member for Indi deserves an apology from that side of the House for its attempt to

besmirch what is a fine reputation of a member who works hard for her own constituents. This is an attempt in the lead-up to an election to try to appear holier than thou over a late return for the year 2006 when you have failed to lodge returns over the period from 1998—and probably further back—and have hidden \$240,000, which has gone to the Labor Party 'trouser', to use your word. It has been trousered by the Labor Party from their trade union mates. You owe her an apology, and I hope it is forthcoming tonight.

**F 80 (WONG)**

Can the Department please provide updated information on senior staff salaries consistent with the document tabled at Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007 on 31 October 2006?

The link to the document tabled on 31 October 2006 is

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa\\_ctte/estimates/sup\\_0607/finance/ministerial\\_staff.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa_ctte/estimates/sup_0607/finance/ministerial_staff.pdf).

**F 81 (WONG)**

Can the Department please provide similar information on staff salaries, as was tabled at Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007 on 31 October 2006, for all positions on the Government Personal Positions document tabled at Budget Estimates 2007-2008 on Wednesday 23 May 2007?

The link to the document tabled on 23 May 2007 is

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa\\_ctte/estimates/bud\\_0708/finance/dofa\\_gov\\_positions\\_td.pdf](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/fapa_ctte/estimates/bud_0708/finance/dofa_gov_positions_td.pdf).

**F 82 (MURRAY)**

Please provide the names of current AEC registered political parties. Please indicate any that are new registrations since December 2006, and the names of any de-registered political parties that have re-registered or are in the process of re-registering.

**F 83 (EVANS)**

**MSBS**

- a. The Government sought submissions on a 'Plan to Simplify and Streamline Superannuation' as a part of the consultation process prior to the final drafting of the legislation. I note ARIA made a public submission but that neither ComSuper nor MilitarySuper did so. Why didn't the Military Superannuation and Benefits Board of Trustees make a submission?
- b. Has the Military Superannuation and Benefits Board of Trustees taken up the cause of MilitarySuper members adversely affected by the tax changes? Has the Board lobbied Treasury to make sure that MilitarySuper members aren't worse off under the new proportioning rules?

- c. Are you aware whether uncertainty over this issue had caused concern amongst MilitarySuper members? Did these concerns impact significantly on ComSuper's service standards through any spikes in telephone or written queries and complaints?
- d. The Minister of Revenue and Assistant Treasurer Peter Dutton announced on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April that the "regulations will not change existing benefit options currently available to DFRDB members on the tax treatment of any commuted lump sum benefit from 01 July 2007." Has the MSBS Board lobbied the Minister and Treasury to make sure that MilitarySuper members will likewise not be disadvantaged on the payment of any lump sum benefits?
- e. Will the MSBS Board in the future lobby the Minister and Treasury to make sure that MilitarySuper members will likewise not be disadvantaged on the payment of any lump sum benefits?
- f. Will a 45 year old member of the DFRDB scheme with 25 years service who retires on the 1 June 2007 be treated any differently with regard to the tax on his commutation lump sum benefit than if he waited until the 1 July 2007?
- g. Will a 45 year old member of MilitarySuper (who transferred from the DFRDB scheme when MilitarySuper was established) with 25 years service who retires on 1 June 2007 be treated any differently with regard to the taxation of any lump sum benefit than if he waited until the 1 July 2007?
- h. If the 45 year old member of MilitarySuper (who transferred from the DFRDB scheme when MilitarySuper was established) with 25 years service had been forced to leave the Defence Force for medical reasons but did not qualify for a military disability pension and accessed a lump sum benefit for treatment or to support himself, would he be treated differently before 1 July 2007 than after?
- i. Will a 45 year old member of MilitarySuper (who transferred from the DFRDB scheme when MilitarySuper was established) with 25 years service who retires on 1 June 2007 and accesses part of his benefit under specified grounds to treat his sick child be treated any differently with regard to the taxation of any lump sum benefit than if he waited until the 1 July 2007?
- j. Will a 45 year old public servant who is a member of the PSSap and has a balance of \$100,000 and \$10,000 of this is his own after tax contributions be taxed differently if he accesses \$10,000 of his benefit under specified grounds to treat his sick child before 1 July 2007 and afterwards?

## **F 84 (EVANS)**

### ***ComSuper and the DFRDB Authority***

- a. Mr Bator have there been any special difficulties faced by ComSuper compared to other superannuation funds in relation to the changes to the taxation of superannuation announced in last year's budget?
  - Can you confirm whether any members of the schemes administered by ComSuper will be worse off under the new proportioning rules that come into effect from 1 July 2007?
  - Have you been made aware of any adverse effects of proportioning on any of these members?
- b) Was ComSuper consulted prior to the May 2006 Budget announcements regarding the superannuation changes? If so what advice did ComSuper give regarding the impact of those changes on the members of the schemes they administered?
- c) Mr Bator the Government sought submissions on a Plan to Simplify and Streamline Superannuation as a part of the consultation process prior to the final drafting of the legislation. I note ARIA made a public submission but that neither ComSuper nor the DFRDB Authority did so. Why didn't ComSuper or the DFRDB Authority make a submission?
- d) Did you raise the issue of proportioning and any other adverse effects of the legislation on DFRDB members and the members of other schemes with Treasury in lieu of making a public submission?
- e) Have you been negotiating with Treasury officials over the regulations? Have they been robust discussions? Are those negotiations continuing? What steps have you taken as DFRDB Authority Chairman to make sure that your members are not disadvantaged by these tax changes? Are you confident that the

regulations now in place and the announcement of Minister Dutton on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, will mean that no member of the DRRDB will be worse off in regard to the taxation of commuted lump sum benefits?

f) Are you aware whether uncertainty over this issue had caused concern amongst DFRDB members? Did these concerns impact significantly on ComSuper's service standards through any spikes in telephone or written queries and complaints? Through your liaison with the Department of Defence are you aware whether this issue has impacted on personnel areas of the armed services? Are you aware if it has led to a mass of resignations amongst highly skilled experienced military personnel?

g) In your discussions with the MilitarySuper Board and Treasury are you aware of any lobbying by MilitarySuper to make sure that MilitarySuper members aren't worse off under the tax changes? Has ComSuper lobbied Treasury to make sure that MilitarySuper members aren't worse off under the new proportioning rules?

h) Are you aware whether uncertainty over this issue had caused concern amongst MilitarySuper members? Did these concerns impact significantly on ComSuper's service standards through any spikes in telephone or written queries and complaints?

i) In your capacity as Commissioner for Superannuation have you discussed the superannuation taxation changes issues with the bodies representing retired public servants and military personnel and raised any concerns about the superannuation taxation changes as the Commissioner for Superannuation.

j) In your capacity as Chairman of the DRRDB Authority have you discussed any concerns about the tax changes (including your own concerns as Chairman) with the bodies representing retired military personnel and passed their concerns on to Treasury?

## **F 32 ATTACHMENT (SHERRY)**

### PART A

1. Will a 45 year old member of MilitarySuper (who transferred from the DRFDB scheme when MilitarySuper was established) with 24 years continuous service and resigns from the ADF on 1 June 2007 be taxed more on a partial lump sum benefit payment if he instead resigned soon after 1 July 2007?
2. Assume he immediately takes his SIS Upper Limit. If his member benefit was \$160,000 and his SIS Upper Limit was \$70,000 how much tax would he pay when he resigns on 1 June 2007 and how much would he then have to pay at preservation age under the current applying legislation and regulations. How much would he have to pay when he resigns after 1 July 2007 and how much would he then have to pay at preservation age under the legislation and regulations that come into force on 1 July 2007?
3. Assume he successfully makes a claim under specified grounds of \$10,000 for the treatment of a sick child, If his member benefit was \$160,000 how much tax would he pay before 1 July 2007 and how much would he then have to pay at preservation age under the current applying legislation and regulations. How much tax would he have to pay after 1 July 2007 and how much would he then have to pay at preservation age under the legislation and regulations that come into force on 1 July 2007?

### PART B

1. Will a 45 year old member of MilitarySuper (who transferred from the DRFDB scheme when MilitarySuper was established) with 24 years continuous service and is medically discharged from the ADF on 1 June 2007 but does not qualify for a military disability pension be taxed more on his partial lump sum benefit if he instead was discharged soon after 1 July 2007.
2. Assume he immediately takes his SIS Upper Limit. If his member benefit was \$160,000 and his SIS Upper Limit was \$70,000 how much tax would he pay when he is discharged on 1 June 2007 and how much would he have to pay at preservation age under the current applying legislation and regulations. How much would he have to pay when he is discharged after 1 July 2007 and how much

would he then have to pay at preservation age under the legislation and regulations that come into force on 1 July 2007?

3. Assume he successfully makes a claim under specified grounds of \$10,000 for his medical treatment. If his member benefit was \$160,000 how much tax would he pay before 1 July 2007 and how much would he then have to pay at preservation age under the current applying legislation and regulations. How much tax would he have to pay after 1 July 2007 and how much would he then have to pay at preservation age under the legislation and regulations that come into force on 1 July 2007?