

## **Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

#### **Outcome 3, Program 3.1**

**Topic: Airline loyalty points**

**Question reference number: F104**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 52, 27 May 2010**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Collins asked:**

In my case, for instance, I have some 80,000 points as of my last management report. I have used 20,000 for parliamentary travel purposes. That leaves me with a remainder of 60,000. As a member or senator I have an option of continuing to remind my staff to please make sure they look for rare opportunities sometimes to sensibly use them or, as I suggested before, picking up some of the public calls which have said, 'Please just allow them to donate this to charity.' So my suggestion back to you is: in terms of the remnant points, look at whether we can just simply write them off, allow members and senators to donate them to charity and be done with senseless administration.

**Answer:**

Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2006/18 (the Determination), provides that airline loyalty points accrued as a result of travel at Commonwealth expense should only be used to reduce the cost of future travel within entitlement by the person who accrued the points. The Determination also requires that details of the use of airline loyalty points accrued as a result of travel at Commonwealth expense and used under the Determination must be reported to the Special Minister of State in accordance with guidelines developed by the Special Minister of State.

Information regarding the use of airline loyalty points by Senators and Members is tabled in the Parliament every six months.

The Determination does not currently allow for airline loyalty points accrued from travel at Commonwealth expense to be written off or donated to charity.