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

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: 2/2.1

Topic: Value of Medibank Private

Senator: Cormann

Question reference number: F1

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Question:

The value of Medibank Private is, of course, a matter of public interest. Minister, I have asked questions about this to the Department of Finance and Deregulation before... I am asking questions about the value of Medibank. I can well understand that Mr Sammells is in a difficult position where he cannot assist me, but I am asking you as the shareholder minister, you as the representative of the owners of Medibank, why it is that you are not prepared to disclose what the commercial value of Medibank Private is?

Answer:

The Department of Finance and Deregulation does not disclose the value of individual Government Business Enterprises (GBEs) as the disclosure of the valuations may assist other market participants to derive commercially sensitive information about the GBEs. Noting that the financial forecasts and value of other unlisted private health insurers are not disclosed, disclosing this information specifically in relation to Medibank Private could put it at a competitive disadvantage.