

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Supplementary Estimates Hearings 2002-2003 – 20 November 2002

Question: F36

Outcome ComSuper Output

Topic: Superannuation

Hansard Page: F&PA 50-51

Senator Sherry asked:

Can you give me details of the corrections that had to be made? For example, the report criticised four agencies – Customs, Defence, Foreign Affairs and Trade and Veteran's Affairs – for high rates of failure to report new members and/or changes in members' contribution rates to ComSuper. There is a litany of other errors to varying degrees. Are you able to provide on notice the way in which each of these various matters is being dealt with

Answer:

At Figure 3.11 of the audit report (pages 68-69) each agency named has provided their response on how they responded to the missing data issues raised by ComSuper. From ComSuper's perspective each agency was notified that required data had not been reported through their regular payroll reporting cycle and all four agencies subsequently provided supplementary files to ComSuper. These files contained the details required for new members and also details of unreported member contribution rate changes. Comsuper then manually applied this data to member records so that the records were complete. This action was completed by the end of 2001.

Veterans' Affairs and Customs have implemented enhancements to their payroll systems as well as improved procedures so that all required data is provided through their regular payroll reporting cycle. We understand that Foreign Affairs and Trade have been liaising with Customs to implement similar improved arrangements and in the interim they are providing supplementary files. Defence are continuing to work on a solution for their payroll and are also providing supplementary files to ensure ComSuper receives all required data.