

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2008-09 (October 2008)**

**Index to Questions on Notice (QON)**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

Note: the FPA Committee resolved that agencies provide answers to Questions on Notice by Friday, 5 December 2008.

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Department / agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Hansard Reference/Written</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments/date answer received</b>
F1	AEC	FIFIELD	F&PA 6	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—So it is something that you have investigated as a matter of maintaining the integrity of the Commonwealth roll. You have not checked to see whether these individuals might happen to all be enrolled at some other address for the purposes of the Commonwealth roll?...Will the AEC go that far? Perhaps they have found a residence somewhere which the all—</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—...But we will take that on notice and look at what further action we might need to take.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—If you could, because if there was the temptation in one context to all enrol in a factory maybe there was the temptation in another context to all enrol at a residential address.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F2	AEC	FIFIELD/ABETZ	F&PA 7	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—Thank you for that. There is just one more question from me, Mr Dacey. I am just wondering if you could give us an update on investigations into instances of multiple voting from the 2007 election....Of those 1,160 admissions of multiple voting, is there any pattern to those? Are they concentrated in particular electorates?</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

				<p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—No. They are very much spread across electorates.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Can we be provided with the electorates and the make-up of that 1,160 figure per electorate?</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—Yes, Senator.</p>	
F3	AEC	FIFIELD	F&PA 8	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—I know you have taken on notice the electorate breakdown for the 1,160 admissions. If we could also have that for the 1,440 nonreplies, that would be useful.</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—1,140.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—Yes, 1,140. Have any prosecutions been launched to date?</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—At this stage, because we are still reviewing processes and reviewing some of the cases, seven cases of apparent multiple voting have been referred to the Australian Federal Police.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—Can you indicate which electorates those seven are from—if it would not compromise anything?</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—On notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Pirani</b>—We will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F4	AEC	FIFIELD	F&PA 8	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—For completeness, could we have an electorate breakdown of those 2,640 as well.</p> <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—That 2,640 is the total number that Mr Dacey was talking about...</p> <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—including the 1,160 and the 1,140. That is the total figure requiring some form of follow-up.</p> <p><b>Senator BOYCE</b>—So there is only quite a small group in there.</p> <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—We have been talking about subcategories of that 2,640.</p> <p><b>Senator BOYCE</b>—The 2,640 is a total.</p> <p><b>Mr Pickering</b>—That is correct.</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—We can give you the 2,640 by electorate, or we can split it into the subcategories, whichever you prefer.</p> <p><b>Senator BOYCE</b>—Both would be good.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—By subcategories per electorate would be most helpful. Thank you for that.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

F5	AEC	ABETZ	F&PA 9	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—That is quite a number that we put down to clerical error. I suppose this is a hypothetical that you cannot answer, but one would imagine that there might be clerical errors the other way that mean that the odd multiple voter in fact may get away with it and not be picked up due to clerical error. But that is just a hypothetical.</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—It is a hypothetical. In any sense I guess of course that it is possible.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Does it happen to the extent that you believe that it is a matter that needs to be addressed in the training sense? Do you have figures from the last election, for example, as to what the number of clerical errors was?</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—I would have to take that on notice, but yes we would have those figures from the last election.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F6	AEC	ABETZ	F&PA 9	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Can I disagree with you; I think it is a high level and a matter of concern. Can I ask how does that equate with other elections? Do we have figures from 2004 and 2001?</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—We would have those figures and we can provide them to the committee.</p> <p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—If you could because that may provide us with some sort of comparison as to whether the AEC is getting a handle on this or whether it is becoming a growing problem.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F7	AEC	ABETZ	F&PA 11	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Have there been any successful prosecutions on multiple voting when there has not been an admission by the voter?</p> <p><b>Mr Pirani</b>—I need to take that on notice. Certainly from the 2007 election there have not been any prosecutions thus far. We have only just referred matters to the Australian Federal Police. If we are going back to 2004—</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F8	AEC	BOYCE	F&PA 13	<p><b>Senator BOYCE</b>—Perhaps I could follow up on that with the general disability area. What level of percentage improvement have we had with respect to wheelchair accessible booths from 2004 to 2007?</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—We have those figures, but not with us. We can give you those figures.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F9	AEC	BOYCE	F&PA 14–15	<p><b>Senator BOYCE</b>—How many special schools did participate then?</p>	Answer received

				<p>That is probably the next question I should ask.</p> <p><b>Ms Urbanski</b>—I do not know. I would have to see whether I can find out.</p> <p><b>Senator BOYCE</b>—Is there any way you can ascertain that for me?</p> <p><b>Ms Urbanski</b>—We could try.</p> <p><b>Senator BOYCE</b>—Were there some?</p> <p><b>Ms Urbanski</b>—I would have to find out for you.</p> <p><b>Mr Dacey</b>—It might be difficult, in that the special schools might not readily identify themselves as such through the title of the school, but we can have a look and see what we can find.</p>	5/12/08.
F10	AEC	ABETZ	F&PA 16	<p><b>Senator ABETZ</b>—Time is unfortunately running away from us, so, if I may break in there: would it be possible for you to get an opinion to advise the political parties in relation to this as to whether it is appropriate under the Commonwealth Electoral Act to behave in this way? If it is, it may well be a matter for JSCEM to look at for an amendment to the section—323, did you say?</p> <p><b>Mr Pirani</b>—328. I will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F11	AEC	FORSHAW	F&PA 16	<p><b>Senator FORSHAW</b>—Can I ask you to provide us—on notice, so that we do not hold up the committee this morning—some of those other examples which I think you were going to go on and give us: further indications of novel advertising or whatever that had occurred.</p> <p><b>Mr Pirani</b>—I will take that on notice, too.</p> <p><b>Senator FORSHAW</b>—I am extremely interested in some of those, but I do not want to take up all morning going through them.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F12	AEC	RONALDSON	F&PA 18	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Minister, just before we finish with the commissioner, there was some talk about the Dreyfus model earlier on. What is the government's view of Mr Dreyfus's suggestion in relation to the breaking of deadlocks? Do you support his proposal or not?</p> <p><b>Senator Faulkner</b>—I would not consider myself an expert on Mr Dreyfus's proposal, but I am happy to have a very close look at it and come back to you. I have not given it close consideration at this stage.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—It did get a lot of publicity. I am sure that you had a briefing in relation to what he had said. Have you formed an initial view on whether you support the resolution process</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.

				<p>or the continuation of the democratic outcomes that we are accustomed to at the moment?</p> <p><b>Senator Faulkner</b>—I have not received a brief on Mr Dreyfus’s proposal, and it is because I have not closely examined it that I am reluctant to provide a response to you. But I am happy to give you a considered response...</p>	
F13	DFD	RONALDSON	F&PA 19	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—I suspect that is probably so for most of us. Minister, yesterday I was asking you about an itemisation of travel, a breakdown of travel, for Mr Peter Stephens. You suggested that I should make that request today under MAPS, so I ask you to take on notice a full breakdown and itemisation of Mr Peter Stephen’s travel with dates and destinations and who else was on the travel party. I presume you are happy to take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Senator Faulkner</b>—I am...</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F14	DFD	RONALDSON	F&PA 20	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Minister, what is the breakdown of staff allocation between the support to the caucus committees and the second part of the role, which is the support and training for government members and senators?</p> <p><b>Senator Faulkner</b>—I am not sure that I can provide that breakdown. I can certainly provide a breakdown for you in terms of the traditional, if you like, staffing establishment. I think it is fair to say that those broad roles that I have outlined are conducted by all of the staff in the CCSTU.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F15	DFD	JOHNSTON	F&PA 38	<p><b>Senator JOHNSTON</b>—That is fine. Do you have any idea how long Security Vetting Services have held the contract?</p> <p><b>Ms Hughes</b>—We will have to take that on notice, Senator.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F16	DFD	RONALDSON	F&PA 40	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Just to the officials: there was an adviser to Ms McKew, the parliamentary secretary. I was wondering whether you could tell me what date Ms Forrester signed her contract of employment as an adviser to Ms McKew, what date she commenced her employment and whether there was any provision in her employment contract to declare to the department her equity interest in the Allen Consulting Group.</p> <p><b>Ms Mason</b>—We will need to take the first two questions you have asked on notice.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F17	DFD	RONALDSON	F&PA 42	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Mr Miles, will you provide the</p>	Answer received

				<p>committee with a precedent for an office holder having a permanent office outside of their own home state?</p> <p><b>Mr Miles</b>—I can provide one now. If you wanted the complete answer we could take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Can you give what you have got and then we will get the complete answer after.</p>	5/12/08.
F18	DFD	RONALDSON	F&PA 43	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Are you aware of what date Mr Cotterill stopped working at the minister’s office and what date his contract formally terminated?</p> <p><b>Ms Clarke</b>—We would have to that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Was Mr Cotterill’s employment terminated or did he resign?</p> <p><b>Ms Clarke</b>—We will have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—If he was terminated, what was the termination of employment payout that the department had to provide? If he resigned, was any termination payment made? If he was terminated, what were the reasons provided for the termination of employment? Was Mr Cotterill the recipient of any extraordinary termination benefits above and beyond those provided under the agreement? I just note for the record that this is the fifth chief of staff to leave the Rudd government since its election. That is the end of my questions.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F19	DFD	POLLEY	F&PA 44	<p><b>CHAIR</b>—Can you give me a breakdown in relation to the average length of time that it has taken to repair or replace PDAs? I intend to put other questions on notice, so you can take that one on notice too.</p> <p><b>Mr Quester</b>—Yes.</p>	Answer received 5/12/08.
F20	DFD	BRANDIS	F&PA 63	<p><b>Senator BRANDIS</b>—Let me turn to the other side of this, the financial stimulus package—the \$10.4 billion and the range of different policy proposals contained within. Did Finance participate in meetings with other agencies in relation to the development of the \$10.4 billion stimulus package?...Can you tell me how many of those meetings you or your officers participated in and with which agencies...I am sure your officers are watching the broadcast of these proceedings. You will obviously take that question on notice.</p> <p><b>Dr Watt</b>—I will.</p>	Answer received 8/12/08.

F21				Question F21 was removed from the index as the question identified was answered by Finance during the 21/10/08 hearing.	
F22	Medibank	CORMANN	F&PA 72	<p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—Can you give us, perhaps on notice if you must, the exact figures of the number of new members that are in the categories below 50 and below 35?</p> <p><b>Mr Sammells</b>—I will have to take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—Thank you very much...</p>	Answer received 9/1/09.
F23	Medibank	CORMANN	F&PA 72	<p><b>Mr Sammells</b>—Typically in any given year we find that health benefit outlays are growing by around eight per cent per year. That has been the experience.</p> <p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—That is health benefit outlays overall, is it?</p> <p><b>Mr Sammells</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—Would you mind, perhaps on notice, breaking that down in hospital episodes and perhaps also medical costs and prostheses and devices?</p> <p><b>Mr Sammells</b>—I can take that on notice...</p>	Answer received 9/1/09.
F24	Medibank	CORMANN	F&PA 77	<p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—My final area of questioning is in relation to lobbyist representation of Medibank Private in its relations with government. Can you confirm Hawker Britton's entry on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's register of lobbyists that shows that Medibank Private is now a client of Hawker Britton?</p> <p><b>Mr Sammells</b>—I will have to take that question on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—If you take that question on notice, could you please take—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Sorry, Senator Cormann; I think it might be difficult for the witness to confirm that. He may be able to confirm that Hawker Britton represents Medibank Private.</p> <p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—Okay. Mr Sammells, can you please take on notice whether Hawker Britton now represents Medibank Private in its relations with government? This seems to be a pretty new approach for Medibank Private. Can you also advise me whether you have previously engaged external lobbyists to help manage your relations with government?</p> <p><b>Mr Sammells</b>—To be honest, that is a question I will have to take</p>	Answer received 9/1/09.

				on notice.	
F25	Medibank	CORMANN	F&PA 77	<p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—Okay. I will run through a series of questions—if you can answer any of them, please feel free to jump in. I am interested to know when Hawker Britton was engaged; whether it was a decision that was approved by the board; whether they were engaged before the election or after the election; whether, if they were engaged before the election, Hawker Britton assisted Medibank Private to gain access to the then Leader of the Opposition, the shadow minister for health, other senior shadow ministers and their officers; and whether, if it has been since the election, Hawker Britton has assisted you to gain access to the Prime Minister, the minister for health, other senior ministers and their officers. I would also be interested in some details in terms of the terms of the contract: is it a flat retainer, a fee for service or a combination of both; when does the contract expire; and who is Hawker Britton’s account manager for Medibank? Shouldn’t you be able as a government-owned enterprise—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Sorry, Senator Cormann, you asked him to work out whether he could answer any of those questions—</p> <p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—On notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Sammells</b>—I am unable to answer any of those here.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—We should indicate that they are all being taken on notice.</p>	Answer received 9/1/09.
F26	Medibank	CORMANN	F&PA 78	<p><b>Senator CORMANN</b>—Mr Sammells, the reason I am asking is that I am somewhat intrigued that a government-owned health fund would have to engage lobbyists to get access to political office holders. Could you comment on that?</p> <p><b>Mr Sammells</b>—I am not informed, so I would rather take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 9/1/09.
F27	DFD	BRANDIS	F&PA 84	<p><b>Senator BRANDIS</b>—No, it does not. Even Senator Sherry said a few moments ago that I can ask about sequence. We have established two dates now. We have established the first date as 7 October—that is the Tuesday. And we have established a date at which a proposal had reached a sufficient level of maturity that it could be the subject of a detailed costing—that is, 11 October. So some time between 7 October and 11 October from among an unspecified range of different options, the substance of which I have not asked you about, this</p>	Answer received 8/12/08.

				<p>particular policy proposal—that is, the pension reform proposal—had reached a sufficiently developed form that it can be the subject of a request for a detailed costing. What I want to know is: on what day between the 7th and the 11th were the options, whatever they were, conveyed to government in the form of a submission?</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—We can take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BRANDIS</b>—No, you cannot take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Yes, we can. We can take on notice what we want to.</p>	
F28	DFD	BRANDIS	F&PA 100	<p><b>Senator BRANDIS</b>—Does the fact that the government did not bother to release the 2007-08 MYEFO until nearly a year after the previous government released it not constitute a breach of section 14 of the Charter of Budget Honesty Act?</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—I would not be able to offer an opinion on that. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BRANDIS</b>—Given that the time limited by section 14 is six months and given that we know that 10½ months elapsed, I think we may say that—</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—Dr Grimes has indicated he will take the question on notice.</p>	Answer received 9/1/09.
F29	DFD	BRANDIS	F&PA 101	<p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I do not agree with your interpretation. The Treasurer has indicated when—next month—the document will be published. Given the current economic circumstances, I think that is perfectly reasonable, and I do not accept your criticism, nor your legal—</p> <p><b>Senator BRANDIS</b>—And you are prepared to give us an assurance—</p> <p><b>CHAIR</b>—Have you finished, Minister?</p> <p><b>Senator BRANDIS</b>—that the Treasurer’s undertaking to the parliament will be honoured, Senator Sherry?</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 16/12/08.
F30	FFMA	FIFIELD	F&PA 110	<p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—We might ask the minister. Minister, can you guarantee that the recommendations and prioritisations of bodies such as Investment Australia will be made public so that there is transparency?</p>	Answer received 9/1/09.

				<p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—The process has not been concluded yet. I am happy to take it on notice and take it up with that minister.</p> <p><b>Senator FIFIELD</b>—If you could it would be appreciated because these are significant funds that we are talking about. Fingers crossed—the budget surplus is decent and there is \$20 billion in the Building Australia Fund. \$20 billion is a not insignificant figure, and for there to be no transparency—no public disclosure—as to the priorities as determined by Infrastructure Australia would be disturbing. So if you could take that on notice that would be appreciated.</p> <p><b>Senator Sherry</b>—I will take it on notice.</p>	
F31	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F32	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F33a– F33b	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F34a– F34c	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F35	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F36a– F36b	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F37	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F38a– F38b	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F39	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F40	DFD	POLLEY	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F41a– F41h	DFD	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F42a	DFD	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F42b	DFD	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received

					5/12/08.
F42c	DFD	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F42d	DFD	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F42e	DFD	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F42f	DFD	RONALDSON	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F43a– F43f	DFD	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F44a– F44d	DFD	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 9/1/09.
F45a– F45g	DFD	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 8/12/08.
F46a– F46d	DFD	FIFIELD	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 8/12/08.
F47a– F47c	DFD	FIRRAVANTI- WELLS	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F48a	DFD	FIERRAVATI- WELLS	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F48b	DFD	FIERRAVATI- WELLS	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F49a– F49c	AEC	FIERRAVANTI- WELLS	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 5/12/08.
F50a– F50c	Finance portfolio	BOSWELL	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 8/12/08.
F51a– F51l	Medibank	CORMANN	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 9/1/09.
F52a– F52d	Medibank	CORMANN	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 9/1/09.
F53a– F53b	Medibank	CORMANN	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 9/1/09.
F54a–	Medibank	CORMANN	Written	See attachment below	Answer received 9/1/09.

F54d					
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**Written QON**

**F31 (Polley)–DFD**

What is the number of Senators and Members who have returned their PDA and gone back to using only a mobile phone? Has there been an increase in recent times?

**F32 (Polley)–DFD**

Did any of these Senators or Members give a reason for changing back to a mobile phone? If so are you able to provide us with these reasons?

**F33a (Polley)–DFD**

How many PDA's in total have been returned and/or replaced due to technical faults?

**F33b (Polley)–DFD**

What is the total cost of replacing these PDA's, taking into account the cost of replacement handsets, time spent by technicians as well as transport costs for replacement handsets?

**F34a (Polley)–DFD**

What is the total number of complaints received regarding PDA's?

**F34b (Polley)–DFD**

Could you provide further information regarding the nature of these complaints?

**F34c (Polley)–DFD**

How many of these complaints related to the reliability of the PDA's?

**F35 (Polley)–DFD**

How many relate to the actual performance of these PDA's with regard to call quality and service?

**F36a (Polley)–DFD**

Could you provide a comparative breakdown of the three PDA models that are currently available with regard to number of complaints/number returned?

**F36b (Polley)–DFD**

Could you expand this information to the models that have been retired from service?

**F37 (Polley)–DFD**

Considering that a number of Senators have been pushing for the use of Blackberry's for some years now, why is it only now that they are being considered, especially since Ministerial offices have been using them for some time now?

**F38a (Polley)–DFD**

Is it possible to compare the efficiency and reliability of Blackberry based PDA's to the PDA's that have been provided?

**F38b (Polley)–DFD**

If so, could you provide some further information regarding reliability comparisons and whether they have been taken into account when selecting PDA's for Senators and Members?

**F39 (Polley)–DFD**

Are there any plans to talk to Senators or Members and gauge their opinion before offering new PDA's and/or Blackberry models?

**F40 (Polley)–DFD**

What course of action do Senators and Members have when their PDA is continually being replaced or serviced? Are they expected to keep in the cycle of use->replace or are options available for alternatives which would limit the cost to the taxpayer and the loss of service to the Senator or Member?

**F41a (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Can you provide a breakdown of increase in government personal staff positions since 1 January 2008 and any changes in the classification of particular staff. That is, have you changed the classification of any individual staffer – for example, from assistant advisor to advisor or advisor to senior advisor? Can you please provide that breakdown by the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary they work for.

**F41b (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Can you please provide the number of vacancies in personal staff positions in ministerial offices as of today's date?

**F41c (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Can you also provide the committee with a breakdown of personal staff and DLO staff that have commenced and ceased employment from 5 December 2007 to today's date?

**F41d (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Can you provide the committee with the total number of DLOs and Departmental Graduate staff located in each ministerial office as of today's date?

**F41e (RONALDSON)–DFD**

As of today's date, does each minister or parliamentary secretaries office have one or more staffers that have a top-secret clearance, and if not, which offices are awaiting clearances?

**F41f (RONALDSON)–DFD**

In relation to personal government staff that have commenced and ceased employment since December 2007, what are the associated costs from that turnover including any relocation costs to locate that staff member at their then new home base, initial and subsequent advertising for those positions vacant, relocation expenses for those replacement staff and where applicable the costs associated for seeking top-secret clearances for that now departed government personal staff member?

**F41g (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Are there any staff working in ministerial offices who are not employed under the MOP(S) Act or by a government department? If so, can you please provide the committee with the number of these staff and details of what agreement they are employed under.

**F41h (RONALDSON)–DFD**

How many consultants are employed in ministerial offices and the offices of parliamentary secretaries?

**F42a (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Can you please provide a breakdown of staff by classification and any changes to those classifications in the CCSTU since 27 May 2008?

**F42b (RONALDSON)–DFD**

What is the current asset list for the CCSTU including, but not limited to, scanners, fax machines, printers, mobile telephones, digital cameras, lap tops, desktops, photocopiers, televisions, additional software?

**F42c (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Are all assets currently located in Suite MG-3? Please detail which assets are not currently located in suite MG-3 and where those assets are currently located?

**F42d (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Have any items that form part of the CCSTU asset register been replaced this calendar year due to damage, loss or theft?

**F42e (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Have any items that form part of the CCSTU asset register been replaced this calendar year for any reason at all?

**F42f (RONALDSON)–DFD**

Please provide the latest estimate of annual costs of operation of the CCSTU including staff salaries, travel expenses, ministerial and parliamentary staff allowance, administrative expenses, and other?

**F43a (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Does the CCSTU assist in any way with the preparation of a roster for Labor Members and Senators to provide interviews at the doors of Parliament House?

**F43b (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Does the CCSTU assist in any way with the preparation of speech notes / media briefings or talking points for Labor Members and Senators?

**F43c (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Does the CCSTU assist Labor Members and Senators to arrange Labor Party social functions that produce surplus funds, including but not limited to the coordination of the attendance of Labor Ministers and the booking of venues (such as function spaces within Parliament House for budget night) and the posting of invitations? Please give details of all instances in which CCSTU has been involved in such arrangements

**F43d (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Can you confirm that the CCSTU prepares regular "CCSTU Daily Bulletins" that are emailed to Labor Members and Senators?

**F43e (FIFIELD)–DFD**

What is contained in the CCSTU Daily Bulletins?

**F43f (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Consistent with the Government's and Minister Faulkner's often stated commitment to openness and transparency, please provide copies of all CCSTU Daily Bulletins prepared and emailed by the CCSTU since its formation

**F44a to F44d (FIFIELD)–DFD**

I understand that for the past few years the Department of Finance & Deregulation (The Department) has been in discussions with the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Big Four accounting firms about the need to reform contracts for the provision of services by accounting firms to government departments and agencies.

**F44a (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Is it the case that Commonwealth agencies routinely insist on the accounting firm bearing all the risk of a contract, with unlimited liability?

**F44b (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Is it the case that contracts with accounting firms routinely contain a clause permitting the Commonwealth agency to change the contract terms at will without notifying or discussing with the other party?

**F44c (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Does the Department consider that it would be more efficient and equitable to include standard clauses covering liability in contracts for accounting services? Please explain the rationale for the Department's view.

**F44d (FIFIELD)–DFD**

I understand that the Department received in November 2007 an agreed set of standard clauses covering liability, intellectual property rights and other matters. Has the Department yet acknowledged receipt of these clauses? When and in what form was this acknowledgement provided?

**F45a to F45g (FIFIELD)–DFD**

I understand that on 10 October 2008 the Minister for Finance issued new Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines to apply from 1 December 2008.

**F45a (FIFIELD)–DFD**

What consultation with business took place on these new guidelines?

**F45b (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Please give details of any consultation on these new guidelines with the accounting sector, including what form the consultations took and when they took place.

**F45c (FIFIELD)–DFD**

If no consultation took place on the new guidelines with the accounting sector, please explain why no consultation took place.

**F45d (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Who does proportionate liability for professional services not appear in these guidelines?

**F45e (FIFIELD)–DFD**

What provision does the Department, as the policy agency, make to ensure that procurement officers in line Departments understand and apply the changes to the professional indemnity regime?

**F45f (FIFIELD)–DFD**

Has the Department sought input from the insurance sector to help with training and information sessions for procurement officers?

**F45g (FIFIELD)–DFD**

What training has been provided to agencies on these aspects of procurement management?

**F46a to F46d (FIFIELD)–DFD**

I understand that the Department is conducting scoping studies on centralised procurement of services, including accounting services.

**F46a (FIFIELD)–DFD**

When did this exercise begin?

**F46b (FIFIELD)–DFD**

What is the time frame for competition of these scoping studies?

**F46c (FIFIELD)–DFD**

How will the results of these studies interact with the new procurement guidelines issued on 10 October 2008?

**F46d (FIFIELD)–DFD**

What coordination has the Department undertaken with the Small Business Division of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research on these issues?

**F47a (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)–DFD**

In recent times, new traffic arrangements have been put in place in front of the CPO in Phillip Street, Sydney, including a new bus lane. Have any arrangements been made in relation to Comcar collection and drop off points?

**F47b (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)–DFD**

Have any traffic infringements been incurred by Comcar drivers for use of the bus lane through waiting for pickup of clients? If so, what arrangements have been made for payment of such infringement notices.

**F47c (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)–DFD**

Has consideration been given to organising alternative collection and drop off points in neighbouring streets to facilitate matters and avoid usage of the bus lane?

**F48a (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)–DFD**

In relation to the PDA devices, please provide full details of the contract for the Palm Treo device. Since the tender for the contract, what tender evaluation has been undertaken to ensure that the devices have been able to undertake what was promised in tender documents. Please provide copies of any tender evaluation documents.

**F48b (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)–DFD**

Is it proposed to acquire Blackberry technology to replace the Palm Treo? If so, when is this planned to occur?

**F49a (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)–AEC**

Further to the answer provided to F51 on 11 July 2008, please provide the same details for all federal electorates.

**F49b (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)–AEC**

Further to the answer provided to F52 on 17 July 2008, please provide the same details for all federal electorates.

**F49c (FIERRAVANTI-WELLS)–AEC**

Further to the answer provided to F54 on 11 July 2008, please provide any submission prepared for the JSCEM.

**F50a (BOSWELL)–Finance portfolio**

What if any steps have been taken to estimate the costs of the government's response to climate change including the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme for every department, agency and program within this portfolio?

**F50b (BOSWELL)–Finance portfolio**

What are the costs and estimated costs identified (reported separately)?

**F50c (BOSWELL)–Finance portfolio**

Have any costs been included in forward estimates and if so where?

Please find below additional questions on notice for Medibank Private following on from their appearance before Finance and Public Administration Committee Supplementary Senate Estimates:

**F51a (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Will you confirm Hawker Britton's entry on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Register of Lobbyists that shows that Medibank Private is a client of Hawker Britton?

**F51b (CORMANN)–Medibank**

When was Hawker Britton engaged?

**F51c (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Was the decision approved by the Board?

**F51d (CORMANN)–Medibank**

If engaged before the election, did Hawker Britton assist Medibank Private to gain access to the then Leader of the Opposition, the shadow minister for Health, other senior shadow ministers and their offices?

**F51e (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Since the November 2008 Federal election, has Hawker Britton assisted Medibank Private gain access to the PM, the Minister for Health, other senior ministers and their offices?

**F51f (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Why does a Government owned health fund need to contract Labor Party aligned external political lobbyists to get access to the Federal Government?

**F51g (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Did Medibank Private contract external political lobbyists to manage its relations with the Howard Government?

**F51h (CORMANN)–Medibank**

What is the term of the contract with Hawker Britton? Is it a flat retainer, fee for service or combination of both? (Assume fudging on commercial-in-confidence grounds).

**F51i (CORMANN)–Medibank**

When does the Hawker Britton contract expire?

**F51j (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Who is Hawker Britton's account manager for Medibank?

**F51k (CORMANN)–Medibank**

In presenting Medibank Private and the PHI industry's case on the Medicare Levy Surcharge changes, what role did Hawker Britton play in developing strategy and opening doors?

**F51l (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Did Medibank Private engage a lobbyist or lobby firm to represent it in its dealings with the former government? If not (we know it didn't), why not?

**F52a (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Has Medibank Private's board formally met with either the Minister for Finance or the Minister for Health and Ageing since December 2007. If yes, how many times for each?

**F52b (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Have the CEO or Chairman experienced any difficulties in accessing either Minister formally or informally since the election?

**F52c (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Since the election, how many face-to-face meetings have the Chairman and CEO had with (1) the PM (2) Lindsay Tanner (3) Nicola Roxon (4) the PMO (5) Finance minister's office (6) Health minister's office?

**F52d (CORMANN)–Medibank**

How does Medibank Private manage its relations with the current Opposition? Does this involve external lobbyists and if so who?

**F53a (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Have Medibank Private paid to attend ALP-related functions and meetings since January 2007, including the 2007 ALP National Conference, and functions arranged by the Labor fundraising arm Progressive Business?

**F53b (CORMANN)–Medibank**

If so, please provide a breakdown, by function and activity, what the function was, the "star attraction" if any (eg the PM or minister), who from Medibank attended and how much was paid or contributed by Medibank?

**F54a (CORMANN)–Medibank**

In relation to Medibank's sponsorship activities, please indicate since December 2007, which Government ministers or backbenchers have attended Medibank-sponsored events including the Medibank International tennis tournament and National Rugby league matches featuring the Melbourne Storm?

**F54b (CORMANN)–Medibank**

How much do sports and event sponsorship activities cost Medibank in 07-08 and expected in 08-09?

**F54c (CORMANN)–Medibank**

Is Medibank's public exposure in these forms of sponsorships evaluated to gauge their impact on member recruitment and retention? Can it be concluded that the revenue brought in outweighs the costs?

**F54d (CORMANN)–Medibank**

What is the three-year extension of the sponsorship of the Sydney International tennis tournament going to cost Medibank Private?