

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2009

**Question: PM49**

**Topic: Change to benchmarks**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 19 October p66**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Ms Granger-If I could just add to that answer. There are Treasury representatives who are part of our weekly coordinators meeting across the Commonwealth, and we use that opportunity both to give feedback from the coordinators about any trends they are seeing in relation to states and territories and also to get feedback from Treasury around the maintenance of effort issues.**

**Senator RYAN-Again, if you could take that on notice. If there has been a change to the benchmarks I would be interested, because your answer to PM52 last time said:**

**... MinCo will take into account that factors outside a State's control may result in a State not meeting the Benchmark.**

**I would appreciate being informed if any of those benchmarks have been altered, particularly as we have gone through a state budgetary round.**

**Ms Granger-The Treasury portfolio will be able to answer your questions on that.**

**Mr Mrdak-We will also need to take that on notice.**

**Answer:**

The National Partnership on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan requires Heads of Treasuries to establish expenditure benchmarks for sectors receiving additional Commonwealth funding and to report to Ministerial Council on state spending against these benchmarks.

The Treasury has advised that the benchmarks have been established and will not be altered with changes in States' spending.