

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010**

**Outcome 3, Program 3.1**

**Topic: Caucus Committee Support and Training Unit (CCSTU)**

**Question reference number: F22**

**Type of Question: Hansard, 19/10/2010, F&PA 144**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator Cormann asked:**

I am now talking about the work that is being performed by the CCSTU. Commitments were made that they would not be involved in 'research on the opposition', with 'no media monitoring' and 'no direct campaigning in elections and the like'. How is that being monitored and how is compliance with those criteria being enforced?

And, as you are checking that, could you check what work has been conducted by people in that unit in that relevant period?

**Answer:**

The staff members of the CCSTU are employed by the Special Minister of State on behalf of the Commonwealth under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984*. Their duties are set at the discretion of the Special Minister of State. The Department of Finance and Deregulation has no role in setting the duties, or monitoring the day to day work, of these employees.