

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 2, Program 2.1

Topic: ICT Business-as-Usual Reinvestment Fund

Question reference number: F82

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a) Why was there no funding for 2013-14 in the ICT Business-as-usual Reinvestment Fund on 26 May 2010?

Answer:

The 2010-11 Budget included \$176.5 million in 2013-14. One of the Fund's eligibility requirements was that bids only request funding over the forward estimates to 2012-13.

The Government was to review the operation of the Fund in 2012-13.

Senator Bernardi asked:

- b) At Supplementary Budget Estimates the Department said that there was now funding in 2013-14 (funding of about \$176 million). Why is there funding now and not earlier in the year?

Answer:

See answer to a)

Senator Bernardi asked:

- c) After 26 May 2010 and before the 17 July 2010 did the Department provide any advice on the ICT Business-as-usual Reinvestment Fund to the Government? Please provide details.

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Answer:

Yes, the Department provided advice to the Government on the Fund on two occasions after 26 May and before 17 July 2010.

Senator Bernardi asked:

- d) During the 2010 election campaign the Government made the following commitment:

The Gillard Labor Government will also remove funding currently quarantined under the Gershon reforms for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) spending across Government, saving \$447.5 million over four years.

If the Department did not provide any advice to the Government about the ICT Business-as-usual Reinvestment Fund before the election, how did the Government know how much money was in the fund in 2013-14?

Answer:

The Department provided advice to the Government about the Fund before the election. See c).

On 26 July 2010, the Treasury and the Department of Finance and Deregulation issued the Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2010. Note 1 on page 8 gave the profile of the provision for the Fund in the Contingency Reserve including the amount of \$177 million in 2013-14.