

LOCAL GOVERNMENT —ANNUAL COMPLIANCE AUDIT REPORTS

**368. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to the requirement for all local governments to submit an annual compliance audit report, which includes 101 line items referring to financial management.

- (1) How many local governments still have not submitted the 2007-08 annual compliance audit report?
- (2) Was the failure to comply with the annual compliance audit report requirement considered before money was distributed from the \$400 million country local government fund?

**Mr G.M. CASTRILLI replied:**

- (1)-(2) Local governments are required to submit to the auditor their annual financial reports for the preceding financial year by 30 September of that year. The auditor has until 31 December to prepare the audit report. I understand that in 2008, 12 applications were made for extensions of time to complete and submit the annual financial report to auditors. My information is that currently 10 local governments have not submitted their annual financial reports, 43 have not submitted audit reports and six have not submitted either report. The department has sought explanations from those local governments for the reasons for the delay, and the department is analysing the reasons for noncompliance to identify whether those local governments need some assistance in that regard.