

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 001

Topic: Red Book

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fielding asked:

- Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')?
- Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
- If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
- If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
- Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

Answer:

The Department prepared a post-election brief for the returned Labor Government which it presented to its portfolio Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries. The Department is currently responding to a request for the brief under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). On completion of this request the Department will advise and provide the Committee with a version of the Incoming Government Brief which may exclude some material in accordance with provisions contained in the FOI Act.

The Minister requested that the Department consider publicly releasing the version of the Incoming Government Brief that is provided to applicants under the FOI Act on the department's website