

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: 002

Topic: Blue Book

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fielding asked:

- Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue 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:

As is usual practice, the Department began to prepare a draft brief for the current Opposition but did not finalise it. As this brief was a draft document that did not require finalisation it has been permanently removed in accordance with normal administrative practice. As the document does not exist, it cannot be provided to the Committee. The Minister has not provided the Department with any instructions regarding the release or destruction of the draft brief prepared for the current Opposition.