

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0141_14

Senator Cash asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 53

Question

Newstart - modelling changes

Senator CASH: When was the department directed to model the changes to the policy and by whom? Ms Paul: It was in the context of the budget, so I do not know that we were necessarily directed. Clearly we would have modelled and costed a number of different options, presumably, in the context of the budget. They would have been considered by the multiple ministers and then ultimately by government, and that is in their budget decision. Senator CASH: So it was part of the normal budget? Ms Paul: It was part of the budget consideration. Senator CASH: Were these changes considered at all when the government was modelling changes to the eligibility for parenting payment ahead of the 2012-13 budget? Ms Paul: I do not know the answer to that. We would probably have to take it on notice. At any rate, the answer might be that that was subject to cabinet processes and therefore we cannot go there. Nonetheless, we will take it on notice if you like and have a look.

Answer

It is not appropriate for the Department to comment on modeling the Australian Government may have undertaken in the context of Cabinet Budget processes.