

Questions on Notice taken by ALDI at a public hearing on 6 October 2009

Senator BARNETT—Let us go back to your meeting with the minister on 26 June. I just want to confirm that you were at that meeting. Can you describe the nature of that meeting, the discussions at that meeting, the time of the meeting and your views of the outcome of the meeting?

Mr Tindal—Certainly. The meeting was held on Friday, 26 June. It was called in that week. I was not in the office at that time; I was actually on leave. So I was called in for the meeting.

Senator BARNETT—Were you called by phone or emailed? How were you invited to the meeting?

Mr Tindal—I was notified that there was a meeting. I cannot remember specifically how the person who contacted me to say that we had a meeting was notified, but I was given a call.

Senator BARNETT—From the minister's office?

Mr Tindal—No, I was given a call from my office.

Senator BARNETT—Yes, but how was Aldi invited? Did the minister or the minister's representative invite Aldi?

Mr Tindal—I would need to take that on notice—who invited us and how that worked. I believe the second part of your question was about what transpired or occurred in that meeting. The minister opened by asking if he could get an understanding as to the various retailers' positions regarding GROCERYchoice, and the various retailers provided those positions. The minister then wanted to get a bit of an understanding as to what options there were in terms of GROCERYchoice and what people's thoughts were. At the end of the meeting the minister wrapped it up and basically let us know that he was considering the matter and that he would therefore come to a decision as to how things would move forward.

Senator BARNETT—How long was it?

Mr Tindal—I would say no more than two hours.

Senator BARNETT—But more than an hour?

Mr Tindal—That is my recollection.

Senator BARNETT—Okay, and you can take it on notice.

Answer received 16 October 2009

I advise as follows. ALDI was notified and invited to the meeting via a telephone call from the Minister's office in the earlier part of that week. My recollection of the meeting was that it was approximately 90 minutes in duration.