

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 295

Topic: Ministerial Leave

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

In regard to the Minister's leave during the Christmas break (between the last sitting of Parliament in 2013 and the first sitting in 2014), were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the Minister during this time? If so:

- i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
- ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes between the Minister and the department during this time.
- iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the Minister?
- iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the Minister but were unable?
- v. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the acting Minister during this time? If so:
 - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred.
 - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails and notes between the acting Minister and the department during this time.
 - iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the acting Minister?
 - iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the acting Minister but were unable?

Answer:

Minister Andrews did not take leave during this period.

Minister Fifield was on leave from 11 to 17 January 2014. Minister Andrews handled all responsibilities during this period. To provide specific details would require a significant diversion of resources.