

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Australian Hearing - scoping study

Question reference number: HS 1

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Hansard page 107, 5 June 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 9

Question:

Mr Davidson: We have issued a number of notifications and have had question-and-answer sessions with our staff indicating only the facts that we are aware of at the moment: the scoping study, the possible time frames and the fact that we need to concentrate on business as usual.

Senator CAMERON: Could you take those on notice—unless you have those notices with you.

Mr Davidson: I have one.

Senator CAMERON: Could you table that notice and table all notices and correspondence between you, the staff and CPSU or any of the unions that are involved?

Mr Davidson: Quite happy to do so.

Answer:

Attached are copies of correspondence sent to staff with regard to the Government's announcement of a scoping study into the possible privatisation of Australian Hearing. There have been no official communications to the CPSU or any other unions. Two emails were sent to all staff nationally, one set of Frequently Asked Questions were circulated to network and head office staff.

- Attachment 1 – email dated 14 May 2014 from the Managing Director to all staff nationally advising government has decided to conduct a scoping study to determine whether or not to privatise Australian Hearing / National Acoustics Laboratories and advising how to field media enquiries.
- Attachment 2 – email dated 16 May 2014 from the Managing Director to all staff nationally advising staff that it is “business as usual” for the organisation while it waits on the results of the scoping study.
- Attachment 3 – Federal Budget Announcement - Frequently Asked Questions circulated to network and head office staff 19 May 2014.