

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Australian Hearing – Meeting with Department of Finance

**Question reference number:** HS 4

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Hansard page 112, 5 June 2014

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Mr Hutson: They are at this stage very preliminary discussions. I think I have had one meeting with the Department of Finance.

Senator CAMERON: What was discussed in that meeting?

Mr Hutson: In that meeting we talked about what Australian Hearing is. What sorts of issues might need to be addressed in the scoping study, some of which are really the sorts of issues you have raised today.

Senator CAMERON: Can you go through the issues that were discussed?

Mr Hutson: I would probably have to take that notice [sic] to give you a full answer, but if you are happy I will just give you an overview, which includes issues such as the dealings with the community service obligation and how that might be delivered in future, National Acoustic Laboratory and how that might be dealt with in future. That is probably as far as it really went.

#### **Answer:**

Issues discussed at a meeting on 21 May 2014 with an official from the Department of Finance related to:

- expected timing and process for the scoping study for Australian Hearing;
- background to Australian Hearing including its history;
- Australian Hearing's business operations including its reach and services to Australia's most vulnerable;
- Australian Hearing's role in the provision of services under the Australian Government Hearing Services Program (HSP) especially related to the Community Service Obligations programme;
- the operations of the National Acoustic Laboratories; and
- the relationship between the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health and Australian Hearing.