

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Enterprise Agreement Bargaining

Question reference number: HS 15

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Hansard page 135, 5 June 2014

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Question:

Senator CAMERON: Has the Australian Public Service Commission issued any changes to the bargaining framework since the previous government?

Ms Campbell: There is a new framework that has been issued.

Mr Hutson: That is correct.

Senator CAMERON: So this is a unilateral decision that the employees are faced with—is that right?

Ms Campbell: That is a Australian government framework that was previously in place, and the government has issued this framework.

Senator CAMERON: What are the changes?

Mr Hutson: That would really be a question for the Australian Public Service Commission.

Senator CAMERON: No, it is a question to you. You are bargaining with the employees of DHS and we are talking about DHS. I am asking you about your bargaining with DHS employees. Why would I have to go to the Public Service Commission? I am not asking you to change the policy. I am asking what policy are you bargaining under and what are the changes.

Ms Campbell: We will take the details of the changes on notice.

Answer:

The Australian Government Public Sector Workplace Bargaining Policy (the policy) was released in March 2014. The policy supersedes both the Australian Public Service Bargaining Framework published in 2011 and the Australian Government Employment Bargaining Framework published in September 2009. The policy is publically available.

The department is focussed on reaching an agreement under the new policy and so has not undertaken a comparison of the old policy with the new. Questions on changes to the bargaining framework since the previous government are more appropriately directed to the Australian Public Service Commission which has policy responsibility.