

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Australian Hearing – Scoping Study – committee meetings

Question reference number: HS 2

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Hansard page 11

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 July 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

a) Senator CAMERON: When did you meet with the scoping study?

Ms Deininger: The scoping study has been ongoing for some time. There have been some committee meetings. I would have to take it on notice to alert you to the specific committee meeting times.

Senator CAMERON: When you say that there were committee meetings, what do you mean by a 'committee meeting'? Do you mean that this was a committee of people from DHS or that the whole meeting was called a committee meeting? What is the committee?

Ms Deininger: There was a committee that Finance chaired and that involved us and others who have an interest in the scoping study. They met on a few occasions. As I say, I would have to take on notice the exact dates of that.

b) Senator CAMERON: What was this committee called? It was just 'the committee', was it?

Ms Deininger: I am happy to take that on notice. It might have been called a steering committee or something like that.

c) Senator CAMERON: You only ever gave factual information. Your total input to that committee was providing factual information?

Ms Deininger: As I have said, we had the opportunity to provide that factual information and make sure that the information that was in the scoping study about the various programs was accurate. I would have to take on notice what other information we might have provided.

Answer:

a) Ms Deininger attended the Australian Hearing Scoping Study Steering Committee meeting on 5 December 2014. Previous Australian Hearing Scoping Study Steering Committee meetings were held on 11 September 2014, 9 October 2014 and 7 November 2014.

b) The full name of the committee was the Australian Hearing Scoping Study Steering Committee.

- c) The Department of Human Services provided factual information on matters including governance and reporting arrangements, and financial performance. In addition to factual information, other input was provided on matters such as:
- Australian Hearing's current business;
 - the operation of the Voucher Program and Community Service Obligation program;
 - National Acoustic Laboratories research;
 - industry environment and stakeholders; and
 - risks and benefits of future ownership options.