

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-003

OUTCOME 0: Whole of Portfolio

Topic: POST-ELECTION BRIEF

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fielding asked:

- a) Did the Department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')
- b) Can the Department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
- c) If not, can the Department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
- d) If the Department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidentials or sensitive information, can the Department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
- e) Has the Minister given any instructions to the Department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

Answer:

a) Yes.

b and c)

The post-election brief prepared for the Government (the 'Red Book') cannot be released in full as it contains information that refers to, amongst other things, matters of Cabinet business; Commonwealth, state and territory relations; international relations; business affairs and advice related to the deliberative processes of Government.

d) A redacted version of the brief, based on exemptions in the FOI Act that applied prior to 1 November 2010, was published on the Department's website on 2 December 2010. The Department will consider the brief under the Act as amended on 1 November and republish the brief in the near future.

e) No.