

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-004

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 newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue 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) The Department prepared a draft briefing which was not finalised due to the outcome of the election.
- b) No.
- c) In accordance with standard Departmental practice which has been followed over previous elections the draft brief was destroyed when the formation of the incoming Government was announced.
- d) No – refer to answer c).
- e) No.