

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-11, 20 October 2010

Question: E10-173

OUTCOME 0: Whole Of Portfolio

Topic: 2010 ELECTION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')
- b) If yes, when and why? If not, why not?
- c) Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')?
- d) If yes, when and why? If not, why not?

Answer:

a and b)

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.

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.

c and d)

The Department prepared a draft briefing (the 'Blue Book') which was not finalised due to the outcome of the election.

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. It is therefore not possible to release the brief.