

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Briefings for the Australian Greens and Independents – 2012-13

**Question reference number:** HS 120

**Senator:** Boyce

**Type of question:** Written question

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 December 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

- a) Have any briefings been provided to the Australian Greens? If yes, please include:
  - 1) How are briefings requests commissioned?
  - 2) What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
  - 3) Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provided details of what the briefings were and why it could not proceed.
  - 4) How long is spent undertaking briefings for the Australian Greens? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.
- b) Have any briefings been provided to Independents? If yes, please include:
  - 1) How are briefings requests commissioned?
  - 2) What briefings have been undertaken? Provide details and a copy of each briefing.
  - 3) Have any briefings request been unable to proceed? If yes, provided details of what the briefings were and why it could not proceed.
  - 4) How long is spent undertaking briefings for the Independents? How many staff are involved and how many hours? Provide a breakdown for each employment classification.

#### **Answer:**

- a) No.
- b) Verbal briefings were provided to the offices of the Hon Peter Slipper MP (Independent Member for Fisher), Mr Tony Windsor MP (Independent Member for New England) and Mr Craig Thomson MP (Independent Member for Dobell). Briefings took place with their staff and not directly with the Members of Parliament.
  - 1) Briefing requests can come from Members. At other times the Department instigates contact with local Members to discuss new initiatives.

- 2) Briefings undertaken to the offices of Independents were as follows:
  - i. The office of Mr Slipper was briefed on the upcoming co-location of both Kawana Waters and Caloundra Medicare and Centrelink Service Centre and the move to electronic payments on 27 August 2012 and 8 October 2012 respectively.
  - ii. On 23 July 2012, the office of Mr Windsor was verbally briefed on the Tamworth Service Centre move to electronic payments.
  - iii. On 23 October 2012, the office of Mr Craig Thomson MP was verbally briefed on the co-location of The Entrance Service Centre which is due to occur 19 November 2012. This Service Centre has already moved to electronic payments.
- 3) No briefings were unable to proceed.
- 4) Details of the briefings:
  - i. The briefing to the office of Mr Slipper was undertaken by the Band 1 Service Leader. The briefing took approximately one hour in preparation and discussion.
  - ii. The briefing to the office of Mr Windsor was provided by an EL 2 Region Manager. The briefing took approximately 30 minutes.
  - iii. The briefing to the office of Mr Thomson was provided by an EL1 Service Centre Support Manager and the acting APS6 Service Centre Manager. The briefing took approximately ten minutes.