

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 21 NOVEMBER 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Commission of Audit

**Question reference number:** HS 3

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Hansard page 124

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 24 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Senator CAMERON: Is the department making a formal submission to maintain your current range of face-to-face, day-to-day functions?

Ms Campbell: I would characterise it as that we have been asked to provide, against the terms of reference for the Commission of Audit, ideas about how the department operates and how it may be able to deliver its services optimally, and we have done that.

Senator CAMERON: You have done it?

Ms Campbell: We have provided a preliminary submission to the Commission of Audit and we will—

CHAIR: Does that include taking over Australia Post services?

Senator SIEWERT: Do not give them any ideas.

Senator CAMERON: Could you table that submission?

Ms Campbell: I will take that on notice, but it is advice to government at this stage.

Senator CAMERON: So the Commission of Audit has cabinet status, is that correct? Is that what you are saying?

Ms Campbell: My understanding is that the Commission of Audit report will be a report for the cabinet, Senator.

Senator CAMERON: Is that what you have been advised?

Ms Campbell: I have not had official advice on that. That was my understanding. We can take that on notice and provide advice to you on that.

Senator CAMERON: So when you say it is your understanding, you are not sure.

Ms Campbell: I am not sure in this specific example but general practice is such reviews would be—

Senator CAMERON: If you could take it on notice, I would appreciate that.

#### **Answer:**

Public release of the submission could affect policy deliberations.