

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Harvard Scholarship – course material

Question reference number: HS 5

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Hansard page 13, 24 October 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014

Number of pages: 8

Question:

- a) Senator CAMERON: Did you have any course material that you brought back?

Mr Rimmer: There are course readings and things of that nature.

Senator CAMERON: I would like to see the documentation, the course readings and anything you got on the negotiation aspects of this training course.

CHAIR: You are asking the witness for his personal study documents?

Senator CAMERON: They are not personal.

CHAIR: It was a scholarship, wasn't it?

Senator CAMERON: Why would they be personal? They are personal if the department pays nothing. They are personal if the department does not pay the airfares. They are personal if the department does not pay an allowance every night. They are not personal.

CHAIR: On that logic, are you suggesting that anyone who gets any support through a department for university study or other training should have to hand over their study documents to a committee?

Senator CAMERON: If requested.

CHAIR: I think that would be an extraordinary precedent.

Senator CAMERON: This is not like a university course—

Senator Payne: I am going to take that question on notice and seek advice.

Senator CAMERON: You are going to take it on notice and seek advice?

Senator Payne: Yes, I am.

Senator CAMERON: You do have documentation, Mr Rimmer?

Mr Rimmer: The university owns reading materials and provides them to students before the course commences in the ordinary course of events, as many other university courses do.

- b) Senator CAMERON: Was there a schedule of lessons and a timetable that you worked to?

Mr Rimmer: Yes.

Senator CAMERON: Is that available?

Mr Rimmer: We will take that on notice.

- c) Senator CAMERON: On notice, I would like a copy of the course content for the three weeks.

Ms Campbell: I expect that is publicly available on the Harvard website.

Senator CAMERON: I am asking you for it. You paid money to get Mr Rimmer over there. I am not going to go searching around on the website. I am asking you to provide it. Is that okay?

Senator Payne: We will take it on notice.

Answer:

- a), b) and c) Material setting out the course content of the Harvard Senior Managers in Government Course is attached.