

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Senate Estimates Briefing

Question reference number: HS 126

Senator: Ludwig

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Since Budget Estimates in June 2014:

- a) How many officers have been responsible for preparing the department, agency, Minister or representing Minister's briefing pack for the purposes of senate estimates?
- b) How many officer hours were spent on preparing that information?
 - 1) Please break down the hours by officer APS classification
- c) Were drafts shown to the Minister or their office before senate estimates?
 - 1) If so, when did this occur?
 - 2) How many versions of this information were shown to the minister or their office?
- d) Did the minister or their office make any contributions, edits or suggestions for departmental changes to this information?
 - 1) If so, when did this occur?
 - 2) What officer hours were spent on making these edits? Please break down the hours by officer APS classification.
 - 3) When were the changes made?
- e) Provide each of the contents page of the Department / Minister / representing Minister's Senate Estimates folder prepared by the department for the Additional Estimates hearings in February 2014.

Answer:

- a) – d) The department prepares briefing for the Minister and senior departmental officers in preparation for attending Senate Estimates hearings.
The department does not keep data on the resources used in preparing briefs for Senate Estimate hearings.
To provide this information would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- e) Information on briefing provided to Ministers is not normally made publicly available in order to maintain agencies' ability to properly and effectively brief Ministers.