

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes Question No: SQ15-000886

Topic: Waste

Hansard page:

Senator Brown, Carol asked:

1. How many pieces of correspondence had to be returned from the Minister's office and prepared for a new signature following the change of Minister?
 - a. What was the time taken between correspondence being returned and new ones resent?
2. How many briefs had to be returned from the Minister's office and prepared for the new Minister?
 - a. How many were returned and had to be shelved or completely redrafted?
 - b. What was the time taken between briefs being returned and new ones resent?
3. What were the main changes that had to be made for correspondence and for briefs? Font and style change? Signature block? Additional background information?
4. Did the department provide overarching departmental briefings?
 - a. And this has happened each time there is a new Minister?

Answer:

1. As with any change of Minister, all outstanding correspondence is reviewed, and where appropriate, redrafted for the new Minister's signature.
 - 1a. The Department aims to redraft correspondence within 10 business days, however this may vary depending on the complexity of the response.
2. No briefs requested by the former Minister were resubmitted to the incoming Minister. Submissions prepared by the Department were prioritised as to urgency and updated as required.
3. To respond to this question would involve a significant diversion of resources.
4. Yes
 - 4a. Yes