

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Spill-over Hearing June 2017**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 281**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 8, 15/06/2017**

**Topic: Electorate Briefs – Backbench Members**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** Those briefs are then provided to the minister's office?

**Mr Madsen:** Some of them are, yes. As we have mentioned before, they can be used for a number of different purposes.

**Senator URQUHART:** What are the other purposes?

**Mr Madsen:** As I think we have mentioned, they might be used within the department; they might be shared with other government departments.

**Senator URQUHART:** Have the briefs containing very granular detail been provided to backbench members of parliament?

**Senator Fifield:** I do not know. I would have to take that on notice.

**Senator URQUHART:** They would go to your office, would they not?

**Senator Fifield:** As I think we have canvassed before, many thousands of briefs come to my office. Not all of them come to me. Numbers of them go to my staff. I could not tell you if those particular briefs that you have been referring to have gone to colleagues.

**Senator URQUHART:** But you will take on notice whether they have?

**Senator Fifield:** Yes.

**Answer:**

nbn rollout information is provided by the Minister's office to Members of Parliament in various forms, including in briefs, reports and summaries.