

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 170**

**NBN Co Limited**

**Hansard Ref: Page 23, 25/11/2016**

**Topic: Medical alarm subsidy scheme**

**Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:**

**Senator DASTYARI:** So when was it set up—July?

**Mr Morrow:** Of this year. Is that right?

**Senator DASTYARI:** So the scheme was available from July?

**Mr Morrow:** There was a form of policy that we had taken prior to that. Then, working with the industry and also in discussions with the department of communications, we concluded that earlier this year.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Minister, were you aware before the implementation of the scheme or after?

**Senator Fifield:** I would have to check.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Okay. Mr Morrow, were you in touch with the department about what would be included in the scheme before or after the implementation of the scheme?

**Mr Morrow:** I was not involved personally in it—

**Senator DASTYARI:** Sure.

**Mr Morrow:** but I can be certain that there were discussions before—

**Senator DASTYARI:** So the department was advised. Was the minister's office advised, or the department, or how—

**Mr Morrow:** Normally we rely on the department to have that communication with the minister's office, so it is possible that—

**Senator DASTYARI:** So the department was consulted in the development of who is and who is not included in this—correct?

**Mr Morrow:** I would think that is natural. I would like to have a chance to confirm that, but that seems reasonable.

**Answer:**

The project was approved by nbn Executive Management in consultation with the nbn Board. The Department of Communications and the Minister's office were briefed on the proposed scheme ahead of its implementation. nbn complied with all notification / reporting obligations in relation to the Medical Alarm Subsidy Scheme.