

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Treasury

Question: BET 737

Topic: Future of Financial Advice

Reference: Written - 5 June 2014

Senator: Whish-Wilson

Question:

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Obviously, Mr Fraser, you were there in the Senate inquiry when Ms Tate, from the Australian Bankers Association, said that they had an expectation because they had bipartisan support prior to the last election that things would happen for them in relation to their concerns around the FoFA reforms. Now, I understand that can mean that they met with Senator Cormann's predecessor or perhaps Senator Bishop—I am not really sure—but were there meetings with Treasury where you are aware that the bankers association were given consideration, if not guarantees, that there would be changes in the future on legislation?

Mr Fraser: I wonder if that is something that I can take on notice?

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Yes, if you could. I think I might have asked you on notice before at the inquiry if you were aware of any guarantees that were provided to the ABA around changes.

Ms Harris: By whom?

Senator WHISH-WILSON: This is why I am asking the question.

Senator Cormann: That is a very grey question.

Senator WHISH-WILSON: Certainly it is a grey area, unfortunately. Those are her statements that are on Hansard so clearly they were convinced that they were going to get what they wanted, which was a wind back in certain areas. I am just interested as to why they were so confident of that and whether you were involved in those discussions.

Ms Harris: I think probably none of us. Because FoFA has been going for so long none of us have been all the way through the journey, but one would imagine that the best process would be to ask the person who made the comment about what it was that gave them such confidence that they could make that claim.

Answer:

737. There have been a number of discussions with a broad range of industry and consumer stakeholders. These discussions have occurred under the former Labor Government and the Coalition Government. Treasury is unable to speculate on the nature of any particular conclusions that a stakeholder may, or may not, have drawn from issues canvassed during these meetings.