

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

#### **Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000071**

**Senator Cameron asked on 10 April 2015 on proof Hansard page 16**

#### **Question**

##### **Contact with ORS**

Senator CAMERON: Have you had contact with ORS since the Four Corners program?

Ms Leon: We have contact with our providers all the time, Senator.

Senator CAMERON: I am talking about ORS.

Ms Leon: If you asking me to disclose whether we are currently investigation ORS—

Senator CAMERON: I am asking whether you have had contact with ORS since the Four Corners report. It is a simple question.

Ms Leon: Yes, we have been in the middle of a tender process and we have been regularly engaged with all of our providers including ORS.

Senator CAMERON: At what level have you had that conversation with ORS?

Ms Leon: I don't think I referred to a specific conversation.

Senator CAMERON: I am not asking what was in the specific conversation; I am asking you—this is a matter of quite significant public importance—

Ms Leon: There has been contact—

Senator CAMERON: whether you have had contact with ORS and at what level since the Four Corners program; a simple question.

Ms Leon: I think that the questions are verging on trying to get me to answer the question of whether we are investigating ORS when I have indicated—

Senator CAMERON: Are you claiming public interest immunity on this?

Ms Leon: The minister may wish to claim public interest immunity, so I will take the question on notice.

Senator CAMERON: Either you claim public interest immunity or you answer the question.

Ms Leon: I will take the question on notice and give the minister an opportunity to consider whether he wishes to claim public interest immunity.

#### **Answer**

The Department has day to day contact with all providers. In particular, senior operational staff including state managers, have been in contact with all CEOs or their nominees between the airing of the Four Corners program and the tender outcome announcement.