

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000903

Senator Cameron asked on 19 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 10

Question

Publication protocol details

Ms Wood: I said we have a document that we are working through our publication protocol. We go through a range of checks on quality assurance and we go through a range of checks to ensure that any cross-government issues are covered off and people know what is in the evaluation.

Senator CAMERON: I do not want to be difficult about it, I am just trying to get it clear in my mind. You did indicate that you had one—it was finalised, I think were the words you used—and it would go up on the website, but there is a protocol. Can you provide me with the details of how the protocol works and your expected time for publication—on publications generally and on this one specifically.

Ms Wood: Our publication protocol covers a range of steps that we work through with each document—

Senator CAMERON: You can do that on notice—I am not trying to pin you down; I would just like to get the process, that is all.

Answer

The Department of Employment's publication protocol outlines steps to consider prior to making the Department's evidence publicly available. This process guides staff to:

- take a planned approach to publishing evidence in accordance with guidance such as the *ANAO Better Practice Guide on Public Sector Governance*
- engage and collaborate with stakeholders at key decision points
- ensure that the methodology and evidence presented is robust and quality assured
- comply with the Department's legal obligations, such as privacy laws, and
- obtain the appropriate authority to publish.