

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Question: PM19

Topic: Social Inclusion

Asked By: Senator Boyce

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011

Number of pages: 1

Could you please supply the date of the first letter from Queensland Premier Anna Bligh to the Prime Minister asking for Disaster Recovery assistance for Queensland community and 'not-for-profit' groups adversely affected by flood or cyclone? Can you confirm whether this letter had to be sent back to be reformulated by the Queensland Premier? If so, what was wrong with that letter? How did the second reformulated letter differ from the first one sent by the Queensland Premier? What was the date that second reformulated letter requesting Disaster Recovery assistance for Queensland community and 'not-for-profit' groups was received by the office of the Prime Minister? Did the Social Inclusion Unit provide advice or make suggestions to any sector of the Federal or Queensland Governments when they became aware that not-for-profits were not covered by the initial Qld NDRRA activation? Please provide details of the tenor of the advice/suggestions provided? Social Inclusion is focussed on providing policy solutions for vulnerable and marginalised people. Please advise the definition that you use in regard to "unmet need"? If the Unit uses more than one definition of 'Unmet Need' for different policy areas, eg homelessness, unemployment etc, please provide details of the definitions and their focus? Please detail the national and international research background for the definition/s used?

Answer:

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(a) Could you please supply the date of the first letter from the Queensland Premier Anna Bligh to the Prime Minister asking for disaster recovery assistance for the Queensland community and 'not-for-profit' groups adversely affected by flood or cyclone?

On 31 December 2010, the Queensland Premier, the Hon Anna Bligh MP, wrote to the Prime Minister requesting the provision of recovery grants for small businesses and primary producers impacted by the Queensland floods.

On 27 January 2011, the Queensland Premier wrote to the Prime Minister requesting the provision of concessional loans and recovery grants for not-for-profit organisations and charitable businesses impacted by the Queensland floods.

(a)(i) Can you confirm whether this letter had to be sent back to be reformulated by the Queensland Premier?

Neither letter was returned to the Queensland Premier to be reformulated.

(a)(ii) If so, what was wrong with that letter?

Not applicable.

(a)(iii) How did the second reformulated letter differ from the first one sent by the Queensland Premier?

Not applicable.

(a) (iv) What was the date that second reformulated letter requesting Disaster Recovery assistance for Queensland community and 'not-for-profit' groups was received by the office of the Prime Minister?

The Queensland Premier did not send a second reformulated letter.

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(b)(i) Did the Social Inclusion Unit provide advice or make suggestions to any sector of the Federal or Queensland Governments when they became aware that not-for-profits were not covered by the initial Qld NDRRA activation?

The Office for the Not-For-Profit Sector, which is in the Social Inclusion Unit, provided advice on this matter.

(b)(ii) Please provide details of the tenor of the advice/suggestions provided?

The Office for the Not-For-Profit Sector provided advice on the process for requesting and approving support for the not-for-profit sector under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

(b)(iii) Social Inclusion is focussed on providing policy solutions for vulnerable and marginalised people. Please advise the definition that you use in regard to 'unmet need'?

Neither the Social Inclusion Unit nor the Office for the Not-For-Profit Sector uses a particular definition in regard to unmet need.

(b) If the Unit uses more than one definition of 'unmet need' for different policy areas, e.g. homelessness, unemployment etc, please provide details of the definitions and their focus?

Not applicable.

(b) Please detail the national and international research background for the definition/s used?

Not applicable.