

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
9 February 2016

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: 2/2.7

Topic: Publishing the DisabilityCare Australia Fund statements

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: F8

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Pages 33-34, 9 February 2016

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 1 April 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator McALLISTER: I just wanted to ask the officers from Finance about the DisabilityCare Australia Fund estimates.

...

Senator McALLISTER: Who made the decision not to publish them?

Mr Robertson: It was just not to prejudice the negotiations underway, so we put them into documents here.

Senator Cormann: Let me just say that I will take on notice the specific question, but on behalf of the government obviously I take responsibility for the way these numbers are published or not published.

...

I will see what we can do to assist you on notice. Ultimately, of course, as the minister I am responsible.

...

Senator Cormann: ... We will spell out for you the process followed to reach the decision, but I think the reason for the decision has been spelt out for you clearly.

...

What I have already undertaken, because to the best of my knowledge I cannot recollect right now precisely what form of the advice may or may not have come to me in that context, is to provide on notice information about the steps that led to that decision.

Senator McALLISTER: Would it be possible for you in providing that answer, to consider the involvement of the line agency in this decision, given that your previous answer suggests—

Senator Cormann: Sure. We will.

Answer:

The decision not to publish the estimate for the DisabilityCare Australia Fund in the 2015-16 Finance Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements was a Government decision, which was made in the context of ongoing negotiations with the States and Territories.