

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-15**

Finance Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** AEC

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Reporting requirements of donors and recipients

**Senator:** Rhiannon

**Question reference number:** F100

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 128 & 129, 29 May 2014

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator RHIANNON:** Yes, I am at the question. *The Guardian* article states:

A Labor party spokesman said: "We confirmed with the AEC that we did not receive an amount of \$25k from Jefferson in 2012-13. The AEC were satisfied with this response."

Could you use that as an example to detail how you handle these sorts of issues when they come to your attention to satisfy yourself with regard to why there is such a discrepancy?

**Mr Rogers:** Just to talk on the specifics of the press release I have in front of me: I can take the detailed question on notice about what we have done with this particular issue; I do not have that with me this evening—

**Senator RHIANNON:** Thank you, Mr Rogers.

**Mr Rogers:** but, as a generic statement, when we receive information, we do feed that into our risk matrix for selection for compliance reviews of entities moving into the future, and that is exactly what we will do moving into the future.

**Answer:**

In accordance with Part XX of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, the reporting obligations of the relevant parties, donors and associated entities in reference to the *Guardian* article were already satisfied at the time of publication. The donations in question were disclosed to the AEC and the returns published on the AEC's website. Contrary to the information contained in the article, the donations disclosed by donors or associated entities did not contribute to any inconsistencies with the disclosures made by the relevant parties. The AEC was therefore satisfied that all reporting obligations imposed by the Electoral Act had been met.