

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

Finance Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 3/3.1

**Topic:** Coalition Advisory Service (CAS)

**Senator:** McKenzie

**Question reference number:** F82

**Type of question:** Hansard, F&PA Committee, Page 101, 29 May 2014

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator McKENZIE:** Thank you so much, Chair. It is the Faulkner reverse issue. With regard to question on notice F33, the last time we talked about CAS, I similarly asked for information about the now opposition's senators and members advisory group equivalent. I called for the questions that had been asked by Senator Faulkner and others to be compared with the opposition's similar service. But, in the answer, you only provided the CAS information. You said you would take it on notice. Look at F33 and see if there is any additional information you could provide. Thank you.

**Answer:**

In addition to the response provided to question on notice F33 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings in November 2013, information has been identified in relation to security clearances.

Employees in the former Caucus Communications Team (CCT) were employed by the then Special Minister of State and therefore were required to obtain and maintain a Negative Vetting Level 2 security clearance. CAS employees are employed by the Chief Government Whip in the House of Representatives, and therefore are not required to obtain a security clearance as a condition of their employment.

Administration of entitlements, including conditions of employment and travel as well as home department support services, are the same for the CAS as they were for the CCT.