

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

Finance Portfolio  
20 October 2015

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.2

**Topic:** Australian Hearing scoping study – discussions with private sector hearing-aid providers

**Senator:** Cameron

**Question reference number:** F37

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 104, 20 October 2015

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 4 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator CAMERON:** Minister, have you or your office, or has the department or any of its officers, conducted separate discussions with private sector hearing-aid providers?

**Senator Cormann:** The official consultation process was managed by the Department of Finance, but obviously, from time to time, all of us in these jobs get approached by various people. ... I will have to take that on notice ...

**Ms Halton:** We have already provided the list of attendees, including from the public and private sector—whomever it might be—to the Senate committee. We will get you that list so you can see exactly who was there.

**Senator CAMERON:** ... You have met with private hearing-aid providers in relation to the privatisation—

**Senator Cormann:** ... In terms of any details, I would have to take them on notice.

**Senator CAMERON:** Ms Halton, have you had any meetings with private sector hearing-aid providers?

**Ms Halton:** No.

**Senator CAMERON:** Have any of your departmental officers?

**Ms Halton:** I think maybe, as part of these consultations. This is why we need to give you the list, so you can see who was there.

**Answer:**

As part of the scoping study on the future ownership options for Australian Hearing, a broad range of stakeholders participated in discussions with the scoping study team (Finance and the external advisers). This includes hearing industry providers and their representative professional associations such as Amplifion, William Demant, Sonova, Widex, EARtrak, Hearing Care Industry Association and Audiology Australia.