

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/100) - Liberal party link on DIBP website - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 50) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Is the department's website providing a link to the coalition's election policy proposals for this visa?

Mr Pezzullo: I am not sure that we would do that, no.

Senator KIM CARR: You are not sure you would do it?

Mr Pezzullo: Well, I do not know that it is material. The coalition was returned, and it has given us directions as to what its policy priorities are.

Senator KIM CARR: I see.

CHAIR: I think if the department were putting in coalition policies as their website, there would be all sorts of problems.

Senator KIM CARR: Sorry? So you say that is not true. It is not true—the department is not providing a link to the coalition's election policy—

Mr Pezzullo: I am not sure. Unless it is through the minister's web page, which we might administer. But no; ordinarily, I cannot think of an arrangement where we would provide a link straight to a Liberal Party—or indeed any political party—policy. Unless it is, if you like, stepped through the minister's web page. I just do not know.

Senator KIM CARR: Would you take that on notice, Mr Pezzullo?

Mr Pezzullo: I will gladly look at it, and if we are providing a link directly to it—

Answer:

The link Senator Carr referred to was removed within minutes of it being brought to the attention of Secretary Pezzullo. The link was part of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document published to support the release of the discussion paper: *Introducing a temporary visa for parents*. The same link, identified in the associated discussion paper, was removed by close of business the same day.