

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE15/008) - Minister Dutton and Senator Seselja - dinner at the Boat House 1st September 2015. - Internal Product (DIBP)**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 33) asked:

"Senator KIM CARR: On 1 September the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Peter Dutton, and a Liberal ACT senator were reported to have held a dinner at \$995 per head at the Boat House restaurant in Canberra. Are you aware of this?"

Mr Pezzullo: My department has no knowledge of that.

CHAIR: That is a question for the minister, not for—

Senator KIM CARR: It is a question for the secretary. Are you aware that the minister had a dinner on that night?

Mr Pezzullo: As the chair has indicated, that in itself is a matter for the minister. In terms of my knowledge or that of the department, I have read some media reports about it. Other than that I have no knowledge of the matter.

Senator KIM CARR: Can the minister provide a list of who participated in the dinner on 1 September with Senator Seselja and Minister Dutton?

Senator Cash: I would need to take that on notice.

CHAIR: You would have to check whether it is relevant to put to portfolio budget estimates

Senator KIM CARR: Did officials from the department attend?

Mr Pezzullo: Not in my knowledge. I will take it on notice but I cannot imagine why they would have.

Senator KIM CARR: Was there any discussion of the tender for the new headquarters at that dinner?

Mr Pezzullo: As I have indicated in my evidence, I have no knowledge of the dinner other than what I have read in various newspaper accounts, so I would not care to speculate. It is really a matter for the minister.

Senator KIM CARR: Minister, is that a question for you?

Senator Cash: I would need to take it on notice as well.

Senator KIM CARR: Was the information provided at the dinner provided to all those that had tendered for the headquarters building?

Senator Cash: Again, any questions relating to the dinner will need to be taken on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: You will take that on notice? Thank you. And were any of the tenderers present at that dinner? There are media reports that there were.

Mr Pezzullo: From the department's point of view it is the same answer. We have no knowledge of this dinner, and it is a matter to be referred to the minister.

Senator KIM CARR: Minister, can you advise me?

Senator Cash: I would need to take it on notice.

*Answer:*

This is not a matter for the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.