

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** NDIS board

**Senator:** Senator Fifield

**Question reference number:** 18

**Type of Question:** FPA, Monday 27 May 2013, Page 68

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 July 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator FIFIELD: You can have people of high calibre who have high profiles, but you have to get the right combination of people.

Ms Cross: An awful lot of checking was done to make sure we had the right mix of people. I think when you see the board membership it will reassure you as to the calibre of the board.

Senator FIFIELD: Calibre is not my concern; my concern is the right combination of skill sets. But if you could take on notice whether any formal professional advice has been sought from experts in corporate governance, that would be appreciated. This is not just any board.

**Answer:**

Mr Finn Pratt, Secretary, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, responded to this question during the Community Affairs Legislation Committee Estimates on 3 June 2013. Mr Pratt noted that the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs had not contracted any expert consultants on the appointment of board members.

The skills of board members are consistent with the requirements of the legislation, as recommended by the Productivity Commission's Inquiry Report on Disability Care and Support.