

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010**

**Outcome General, Program General**

**Topic: Availability of Red Book Briefing**

**Question reference number: F90**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Number of Pages: 2**

**Senator Fielding asked:**

- a) Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')?
- b) Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
- c) If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
- d) If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
- e) Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?
- f) Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue Book')?
- g) Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
- h) If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
- i) If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
- j) Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

**Answer:**

- a) Yes
- b) A copy of the brief may be found on the Department's website at [http://www.finance.gov.au/about-the-department/media-centre/secretary/media-releases/2010/mr\\_052010.html](http://www.finance.gov.au/about-the-department/media-centre/secretary/media-releases/2010/mr_052010.html)
- c) n/a
- d) n/a
- e) No
- f) No, the "Blue Book" briefing was never finalised

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- g) see answer to (f)
- h) see answer to (f)
- i) see answer to (f)
- j) No, see answer to (f)