

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(173) Program: Internal Product

Senator Fielding asked:

- (1) Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')?
- (2) Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
- (3) If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
- (4) 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?
- (5) Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions).

Answer:

- (1) Yes, the Department did prepare a post-election briefing package for a returned Labor Government.
- (2) The Department is unable to provide the committee with the full post-election briefing package.
- (3) In accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* parts of the briefing package are unable to be released due to:
 - information that relates to the deliberations of Cabinet;
 - information that would cause harm to our relations with other countries;
 - information that may affect National Security;
 - information that would affect the operations of the Department;
 - information subject to Legal Professional Privilege; and
 - material that is deliberative and provides highly sensitive policy advice to the Government.
- (4) Yes, a redacted copy of the briefing package can be provided with the above-mentioned sections omitted. This will be provided in due course, once the decision-maker has finalised assessment of the package.
- (5) No, the Minister has not provided instruction to the Department regarding the release of the post-election briefing package.