



**Senator the Hon Don Farrell**

---

**Special Minister of State  
Minister for Trade and Tourism  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate**

Senator the Hon Sue Lines  
President of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

**Order for the Production of Documents – Non-disclosure agreements**

I refer to the order for production of documents (the order) from Senator Kerryne Liddle regarding the use of non-disclosure agreements by the Department of Social Services when conducting consultations with community sector organisations. The order requests the tabling of this report by 5pm, Wednesday 16 October 2024.

It will not be possible to produce the documents requested in the time provided for the order to be tabled. I have enclosed correspondence from the Minister for Social Services, outlining the reasons for the delay.

Yours sincerely

Don Farrell



**The Hon Amanda Rishworth MP**

**Minister for Social Services**

Ref: MS24-001204

Senator the Hon Don Farrell  
Special Minister of State  
Minister for Trade and Tourism  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2606

Dear Minister

*Don*

**ORDER FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS NO.655 - DOCUMENTS  
REGARDING NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

I write regarding the Senate Order for the Production of Documents relating to non-disclosure agreements, moved by Senator Liddle and agreed by the Senate on 10 October 2024. The Order seeks information about an extended period of time in which my department has regularly undertaken consultation and engagement activities in the course of policy development, refinement and implementation.

My department is currently undertaking searches and analysis to identify the information required by the Order. In order to ensure that accurate information is provided to the Senate, my department requires additional time to complete the required searches. I therefore advise that I will not be in a position to provide information in response to the Order before 6 November 2024.

I ask that you provide this letter to the Senate President by 16 October 2024, which is the due date for responding to the Order.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Rishworth MP

*16/10/2024*