

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts
Legislation Committee**

**Energy Efficiency Homes Package Senate Inquiry
Thursday 25 March 2010**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Question No: EEWR 1
Hansard Page ECA: 62-63**

Senator Fisher asked on 25 March 2010, Hansard page ECA 62-63.

Question

Insulation Workers - Safety

In respect of the alleged injury of an inspector in the ACT which was reported in the media around 18 and 19 March—a period when parliament was sitting; you were here, various ministers were here—can you confirm that Minister Combet, who would have been the guy with his butt on the seat at that point in time, to your knowledge did not seek a briefing, did not seek any advice, in connection with the allegation of a near electrocution of an assessor looking at the aftermath of what is now his inherited mess to fix up?

Mr Griew—I am sorry, you would have to seek that information from his department. I would be unable to answer that.

CHAIR—That said, advice was not sought of you, of DEEWR, nor of Safe Work Australia in any respect related to that alleged injury, just by way of example.

Mr Griew—It was not, to my knowledge. I think I have already indicated I probably was not actually here then, but I understand that it was—

CHAIR—You might like to take that small vestige of ‘gee it might be good in my view if a minister had asked’ on notice. I am sorry to give you a question on notice. Could you take on notice the small vestige of hope that maybe a minister might have asked a question about it and you are just not aware of it?

Mr Griew—I will certainly take the question on notice.

Answer

The department has no record of any request for briefing on this alleged incident.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Question No: EEW 2
Hansard Page ECA: 69**

Senator Fisher asked on 25 March 2009, Hansard page 69.

Question

Ministerial Briefing on DEEW's role in the Project Control Group

In terms of your department's role in the project control group, what briefings and advice were provided to the Deputy Prime Minister as a result of your department's involvement in the project control group?

Answer

No advice about issues arising from the Department's involvement in the project control group was provided to the Deputy Prime Minister.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Question No: EEWR 3
Hansard Page ECA: n/a**

Senator Fisher provided the following question in writing.

Question

Ministerial Briefing on the adequacy of the training provided through the program

Given her Department's role in the regular industry and stakeholder consultation meetings held throughout 2009, was the Deputy Prime Minister or her office briefed in relation to the adequacy of the training being provided through the program and if so, when?

Answer

No advice about the adequacy of training being provided through the program was provided to the Deputy Prime Minister.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Question No: EEWR 4
Hansard Page ECA: n/a**

Senator Fisher provided the following question in writing.

Question

Briefing/s undertaken to the Deputy Prime Minister post Energy Efficient Homes Package Memorandum of Understanding Committee meeting

DEEWR's submission confirmed that the Deputy Prime Minister's Department chaired two meetings of a Steering Committee of Commonwealth officials, union officials and industry representatives that were held in July and November last year. Given discussions at these meetings covered training requirements, implementation of the monitoring regime, and the importance of compliance, including an external audit, was the Deputy Prime Minister or her office briefed in relation to the outcomes of these meetings, and if so, when?

Answer

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed to promote linkages between Job Services Australia providers and other Steering Committee members including the HIA, MBA and NESA. The Steering Committee members worked together to support jobs and skills development opportunities for job seekers. The Steering Committee played no role in the delivery of the Energy Efficient Homes Program.

While the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) provided members with an update on the program, the Steering Committee was an overseeing body that provided advice on the MOU specifically not the Insulation program in general.

DEEWR did not brief the Deputy Prime Minister or her office on the outcomes from either meeting.