

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

Effectiveness of the Australian Government's response to Australian citizens who are kidnapped
and held for ransom overseas

Nikki Sorbello – Bundaberg NewsMail

QUESTION ON NOTICE – Thursday, October 6, Hansard page 16
Senator Stephens

One of the important outcomes of the Brennan kidnapping was the establishment of the government's response, where DFAT engaged the former deputy secretary John McCarthy to undertake a review. Was the paper involved in the review and did the paper ever receive an invitation to comment on the government's response to kidnapping?

RESPONSE

The NewsMail was not involved, nor were we given an invitation to comment on the government's response to Nigel Brennan's kidnapping in the John McCarthy review. The review was not something the NewsMail was made aware. The paper only became aware of the review as a part of this senate inquiry.