

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 59

Topic: Recovery Assistance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Boyce asked:

Further, we ask, during the same estimates hearings when Ms Carroll was asked why assistance to disaster affected community and 'not-for-profit' groups hadn't been included in recovery assistance before February 18? In her answer Ms Carroll said and I quote, "*Some things get triggered straightaway because they are obvious...*"

Could this answer be explained?

Is the Department suggesting that the needs of community groups and not-for-profits, in these natural calamities, were not obvious?

Does this indicate that the very Department charged with taking care of these interests gives their clients a lower priority than say, small business?

Answer:

No. The answer relates to the urgent and immediate activities which are activated under the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). FaHCSIA took immediate action to ascertain the impact on its not-for-profit providers and provide a response. These NDRRA arrangements are administered by Emergency Management Australia in the Attorney General's portfolio.