

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 187

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

- 1) Has any disability advice group or consultant been contacted regarding making the FOI requests accessible to people with disabilities?
- 2) Is this compatible with the information commissioners guidelines - specifically that "published information should be accessible - in particular, it should comply with an agency's obligation to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (Version 2)"

Answer:

- 1) Contact was made with AGIMO and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner specifically concerning accessibility of FOI documents in 2012.
- 2) The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner communicated with the previous Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, agreeing on the difficulty in making FOI documents fully accessible due to the nature of its content. Where possible, DSS publishes information in accordance with WCAG 2.0 and AGIMO guidelines and provides a clear avenue for support in the event the documents are not readable.