

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015, 25 February 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000280

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Budget Savings

**Type of Question:** Hansard Page 59, 25 February 2015

**Senator:** McLucas, Jan

**Question:**

Senator McLucas: Do decisions have to be made within the savings that are proposed from the budget, within those figures?

Mr Bowles: Again, that is a decision for government. I am not privy to that. It is a decision of government. Yes, there were savings at a point in time, but the minister is consulting and it will depend on what the outcome of those consultations is.

Senator McLucas: We have heard, and I am sure you have heard as well, that there are people who are concerned that those savings are hard and fast and that the minister must deliver those savings however -

Mr Bowles: It is a matter for government ; it is not a matter for me.

Senator McLucas: I understand that. Minister, do you know whether the minister has been given instructions by perhaps the Prime Minister to that effect?

Senator Nash: No, I am not aware.

Senator McLucas: did you want to ask the minister if she would share that with the committee?

Senator Nash: I am certainly happy to take that on notice for you.

**Answer:**

No, Assistant Health Minister, Senator the Hon Fiona Nash, has not been instructed by the Prime Minister.