

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: SQ15-000231

Topic: DSS Grants Process

Hansard page: Written

Senator Brown, Carol asked:

Has any member of the Department ever informed – either orally or in writing – any of the organisations that were notified on 23 December that they would have their funding cuts that they should not speak to the media?

Answer:

The letter provided to preferred providers between 22-24 December 2014 included the following statement:

To avoid confusion within the sector we would appreciate you treating this advice in confidence while negotiations of your funding offer take place and public announcements are made.

Guidance provided to Departmental staff in the Staff Toolkit stated:

Providers have been asked to maintain confidentiality until we have advised that a public announcement of their round has been made.