

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 2 MARCH 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Media articles

**Question reference number:** 23 (HS 23)

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Hansard page 45

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 21 April 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

- a) Senator SIEWERT: In January you made the comment that you provided information to the minister. Was that about all the cases that had been in the media up until and during January?

Ms Campbell: My recollection is that that was a very busy period and we were providing comprehensive information to the minister during that period about those cases.

Senator SIEWERT: You acknowledged earlier this morning that you do look at social media. Could you confirm whether that included people commenting on social media?

Ms Campbell: We will look at that. I suspect we would not have gotten every social media, because I do not know that it is possible to grab all of them. We were looking for those with lots of profile. We can look at those.

- b) Senator SIEWERT: Can I be clear? All the information that the minister released—all of it—was run past the legal team?

Ms Campbell: I think we would need to take that one on notice because that is a different question to the one that Mr Hutson just answered. Mr Hutson described what we provided and the legal advice. We will take that on notice with the minister.

#### **Answer:**

- a) The Department provided a range of information to the Minister's office; this included notable postings on social media.
- b) Protected information that was sent to Mr Malone had been cleared for public release by the Legal Services Division.