

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 – 2017, 19 October 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000500

**OUTCOME:** 0 – Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Offensive Wikipedia Edits

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Bilyk, Catryna

**Question:**

With reference to an article entitled ‘Investigation launched after public servants, staffers caught making offensive Wikipedia edits’ published by James Massola of Fairfax on 26 October 2016:

- a) Were the changes made to the Tony Abbott Wikipedia page performed by a person in the Department of Health or a person in the Minister’s office? If a Minister’s office, which Minister? (“Someone from the Department of Health network editing the Tony Abbott page to state the former PM has ‘chimpanzee ears’, is ‘dishonourable’, that his maternal grandfather ‘died of shame’ and that ‘Abbott has the dubious honour of being the most untrustworthy and grossly underserving holder of the Prime Ministership in Australia’s history”).
- b) What process did the Department follow to investigate these changes?
- c) What was the outcome of that investigation?

**Answer:**

- a) No.
- b) The Department of Health undertook an investigation using the WikiWatchdog website information that was used by James Massola of Fairfax.
- c) The investigation determined that James Massola of Fairfax had wrongly claimed that the Department undertook the Wikipedia edits on the Hon Tony Abbott MP Wikipedia.