

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 6

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 6-7, 20/10/2015

Topic: Briefings – Non-Government MPs

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:

Senator DASTYARI: Are you aware of any of those briefings being with non-government members of parliament?

Senator Fifield: I will check. I would not necessarily be aware if there had been.

Senator DASTYARI: But you are not aware of any that are.

Senator Fifield: As I said, my staff talk to MPs' offices across the board.

Senator DASTYARI: I understand there are unknown unknowns. I am saying you personally. It sounds like, from what you have been saying to me, that you have personally been involved or know of briefings of coalition MPs. You are not aware personally of any briefing of non-coalition MPs. That is not to say that it has not happened.

Senator Fifield: Correct. I am very happy, obviously, for colleagues across the parliament who would like to seek briefings and additional information.

Answer:

The briefing material referred to was prepared by the Department for the Minister for Communications and the Arts and his staff in October 2015. The Minister's office has indicated that it would be happy to brief Members of Parliament on the NBN.