

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EM0831_15

Senator Xenophon asked on 2 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 52

Question

Mr Fluffy case

Senator XENOPHON: I will not even blink while I am asking this question. I will try not to blink. Will the government undertake that if there are queries from those who have been affected by the role of the Commonwealth in the 1970s, those documents are still available and they will be made available for any affected parties and aggrieved parties wanting to establish any change of responsibility, if any?

Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice. I must say that my inclination would be that the Commonwealth should, but I will not commit myself or the government until I get absolute advice on this. Given the agency, given the agreement, I think right around the country of the importance of dealing with this issue and all the legacy issues, I would need a lot of persuasion not to follow the course that you have suggested.

Answer

Files relating to Mr Fluffy houses are with the ACT Government. All files held in the former Department of Territories were transferred to the ACT following self-Government with the exception of Cabinet documents. Any request for documents should be referred to the relevant ACT department.

Cabinet records in relation to the "Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Removal Program" up to and including 1987 are in the open access period and are now in the public domain unless they are exempt. Any persons interested in such information should contact the National Archives for assistance.