

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Don Dale

Senator: McAllister, Jenny

Question reference number: 120

Type of question: FPA Friday 21 October 2016, page 43

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator McALLISTER: Well, you have either misled the ABC or you have misled this committee on the question of who generated the brief. Is that correct?

Senator Scullion: Well hang on—

Senator McALLISTER: It cannot be both.

Senator Scullion: I have said we have taken that matter on notice and we will be able to get an exact answer. I am just trying to be fair dinkum here. I do not think it came, necessarily, from my office. I did not actually think that it was important at the time to the Australian people whether my office said to the department 'can you get it' or the department said to my office 'can you get it'. I thought this was actually about kids in detention—a really important issue to Australians, particularly to Territorians. That is what I thought this issue was about. You may place importance on saying I misled people, but that is absolute garbage. What I actually said is what I thought happened at the time.

Answer:

The Office of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, through an email from the Departmental Liaison Officer, asked the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to prepare a Question Time Brief on 12 October 2015.