

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** Cross

**Question No:** 380

**Topic:** Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Boyce asked:**

How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings be redrafted or resubmitted? Please provide example of why this would happen. (i.e. last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled).

**Answer:**

Internal clearance processes vary amongst departments and ministerial offices. The Cabinet Secretariat in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet liaises with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs as the author of Cabinet documents, and undertakes a role in relation to ensuring standards are met with respect to the quality and timeliness of papers. This is seen as an ongoing process for the development of a final product rather than a series of milestones and as such, the type of data sought is not captured and recorded. Cabinet documents are re-drafted during the development process for a number of reasons, such as including updated information and complying with regulatory requirements.