

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2007-08  
28 May 2007

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

**TOPIC:** Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Structural Adjustment Package

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 28/05/07, Page E55)

**QUESTION No. B1 - 122**

**Senator CARR**—Can you advise the committee as to whether or not Mr Macfarlane sought any advice from the department on options for consideration of this application?

**Mr Payne**—We did provide advice to our minister on the issues raised, or on Blundstone's application. So, yes, we did provide advice to him.

**Senator CARR**—Can you tell me the date on which that advice was provided?

**CHAIR**—Again, it is within the confines of that advice to government.

**Senator CARR**—No, I can ask whether advice has been sought and the date on which that was sought.

**CHAIR**—I think that advice and the date it is given is advice to—

**Senator CARR**—I am not asking about the nature of the advice.

**CHAIR**—Let me finish, thank you: I do not think that is a question they should be required to answer.

**Senator Minchin**—I do not recall it being normal practice to keep dates on which internal advice is given to ministers.

**Senator CARR**—Yes, it is.

**Senator Minchin**—It may have been proffered on particular occasions, but it is not normal.

**Senator CARR**—Dates on which decisions are made, dates on which advice is sought—that sort of thing—is not an uncommon feature of these committees. Obviously, there is clearly a question about the content of that advice, but the date on which it was provided—

**Senator Minchin**—No, I do not think that is usual. It is not unusual to acknowledge advice was given, but never to go to the content of it—

**Senator CARR**—No, it is not the content; the date on which it was provided.

**Senator Minchin**—No, that is not normal. Anyway, the minister can consider that, if you accept it on notice.

**ANSWER**

Contrary to the answer given at the hearing, further checking by the Department has shown that it did not advise Minister Macfarlane on options for consideration of the application for funding by Blundstone Australia Pty Ltd (and others) under the Regional Partnerships Program, Part 3 of the TCF Structural Adjustment program.