

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0173_14

Senator Lines asked on 27 February 2014 , Hansard page 86

Question

Work for the Dole

Ms Leon: The reason for that is that the full and frank advice of the Public Service is best able to be given to ministers to enable them to make their decisions if the giving of that advice is confidential. Senator LINES: You can take on notice as to why you will not provide advice. Ms Leon: That is the answer. It is in order to enable ministers to receive full and frank advice so that they can undertake the deliberations that ministers need to take. Senator LINES: And I was asking you specifically about a question that went to providing advice to the minister on work for the dole. The minister himself has indicated some work has been done and you have not adequately described back to me why you will not elaborate on that answer. I would like you to take that on notice. Ms Leon: Yes, thank you.

Answer

The Department of Employment, through the normal course of its duties, has provided advice on a number of matters to government, including Work for the Dole.

In order for the Public Service to provide fearless and frank advice to the Government the content of said advice is confidential and a matter for Government.