

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: ALL
Output Group: ALL

DEST Question No. E112_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2003, EWRE Hansard page 450-451

Question:

Was the opposition made aware of the new contract and were we provided with copies of it? I would like it directly. Why can't I get it directly? Why can't we have that directly; when will it be reconnected? I would like to know why we cannot get the electronic copy, in the first instance, and why we cannot get a hard copy as well.

Answer:

Press clippings service

The opposition was neither advised of the existence of the new contract nor were copies of that contract provided. Contractual arrangements with providers such as Media Monitors are administrative in nature and are handled within the Department. It is not usual for such matters to be referred to the opposition. The following is provided for the Senator's information:

The AAP online media monitoring contract ceased on 23 January 2003. As a result of a limited tender process Media Monitors secured a three year contract to provide online media monitoring services to the Department, with the live service commencing on 1 November 2002. This service, "Hot off the Press" is made available to all DEST staff via the Department's Intranet and is not published externally. The Department's Intranet is internal to the Department and for security reasons cannot be made available to third parties.

The new service replaced the hard copy clips, apart from two sets which are delivered to the Ministers' Offices and two sets to the Department. In addition, the Department prints out on a daily basis, one set and delivers it to the Estimates Committee Secretariat as far as possible on that day. This latter copy is provided so that Committee members and their staff can access the clips as required.