

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Additional Estimates 2010-11**

**Question: 8**

**Topic: RDA Volunteer Letter**

**Asked By: SENATOR JOYCE**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 121**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator JOYCE**—It sounds absolutely absurd that I have to do this, but can you take on notice whether equal opportunity laws apply to the engagement of volunteers? You might be able to answer it now, but if you cannot, you can take it on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department of Regional Australia has sought legal advice on the matter. The Department was advised that the Regional Development Australia Brisbane committee's approach to seeking expressions of interest for vacancies of volunteer positions on that committee does not constitute unlawful discrimination.