

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Australian Electoral Commission

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 28 & 29 May 2003

Question: 54

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: AEC Portfolio Budget Statement error

Hansard Page: F&PA 449

Senator Brandis asked:

(Mr Becker) I am reasonably certain that there was an email communication with Mr Snowdon's office by Mr Diak I do not have that with me, but I am happy to table that if it exists. I am reasonably certain that it does.

(Senator Faulkner) There is no need to do that.

(Senator Brandis) I will ask if you could locate the email. You might take that on notice and produce it subsequently, if it exists.

Answer:

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

One email was sent from Mr Phil Diak at the AEC to Mr Markus Mannheim at Mr Snowdon's office at 1.38pm on Friday 16 May 2003. The email is attached.

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Attachment for Question 54

Copy of email from Mr Phil Diak, Australian Electoral Commission, to Mr Markus Mannheim, adviser to Hon. Warren Snowdon.

Phil Diak 16/05/2003 01:38 PM

To: markus.mannheim@aph.gov.au
cc:

Subject: re AEC Portfolio Budget Statement error

Markus

The AEC has identified it made an error with figures issued by the AEC in its 2003-04 Portfolio Budget Statement in relation to electoral education.

Contact has been made between DOFA and the AEC to correct the budget estimate in the PBS. The revised estimate will be almost identical to the estimated actual budget for 2002-03 (\$8.535 Million) for Outcome 3. Thus there will be no cut to AEC education programs.

cheers Phil

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Question: 55

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: AEC Portfolio Budget Statement error

Hansard Page: F&PA 451

Senator Ray asked:

Did anyone then make contact with Mr Snowden's office and say, 'Hold on you've got this wrong. We're correcting the record, 'et cetera'?

(Mr Hallett) Mr Diak had been dealing with the adviser to Mr Snowden and I would have to take it on notice to check whether he actually also raised the matter about the content of the ABC broadcast.

(Senator Robert Ray) So you don't know.

(Mr Hallett) No.

Answer:

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

Mr Diak recalls that he did not raise the matter about the content of the ABC broadcast with Mr Snowden's adviser.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 28 & 29 May 2003

Question: 56

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: AEC Portfolio Budget Statement error

Hansard Page: F&PA 453

Senator Robert Ray asked:

There is no file note on the 15th, is there?

(Mr Hallett) I am not sure, Senator. I would have to check.

(Senator Robert Ray) It is on the 16th. Even though it is undated, it is the 16th?

(Mr Hallett) As I said to you, I am aware that Mr Diak documented the discussions after the event.

(Senator Robert Ray) Was this on the same day or the day after?

Answer:

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

The file note is undated. Mr Diak documented the discussions afterwards.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

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Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 28 & 29 May 2003

Question: 57

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: AEC Portfolio Budget Statement error

Hansard Page: F&PA 454

Senator Robert Ray asked:

So the email mentions a telephone conversation?

(Mr Hallett) As I say, I don't have it in front of me, Senator. But it is reasonably standard procedure – where there is a telephone enquiry from the media or a member of the public about a particular issue, it is quite often followed up by an email.

(Senator Robert Ray) And you would say, 'Following our phone conversation yesterday?

(Mr Hallett) I would expect it would be something along those lines. As I say, I do not have the email in front of me, so I would really like to check.

Answer:

The answer provided to me by the Australian Electoral Commission is as follows;

The email does not mention the telephone conversation.