

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 May 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

### **Human Services Portfolio**

**Topic:** Parliamentary Library Request for Information

**Question reference number:** HS 19

**Senator: RYAN**

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA page 103, 27 May 2010

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 9 July 2010

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

**Senator RYAN** - Ms Hogg indicated that there were written exchanges between Centrelink and FaHCSIA.

**Ms Hogg** - I certainly have not written to FaHCSIA.

**Senator RYAN** - It could have just been casual language. I am not trying to impute anything, but I got the impression that discussions between Centrelink and FaHCSIA when you were seeking permission for this could have been done in writing.

**Ms Hogg** - Yes, they were done by email.

**Senator RYAN** - Can we get copies of that correspondence, please?

**Ms Hogg** - Yes.

#### **Answer:**

Centrelink contacted the Department of Families, Housing, Community services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) by phone on 5 May 2010 regarding this request, advising of the details of the request and that the Parliamentary Library contact officer was not able to provide details of the requester and intended use of the data.

FaHCSIA advised Centrelink, by phone, that the request would be denied and of alternative arrangements for data requests by Senators or Members of Parliament.

A copy of an e-mail of advice from FaHCSIA in relation to another request dated 24 May 2010 is enclosed confirming the approach to be taken for requests from Members of Parliament, including the Parliamentary Library. Material which could identify individuals has been blacked out.

From: [REDACTED]@fahcsia.gov.au>  
To: <mi.coordination@centrelink.gov.au>  
Date: 24/05/2010 12:42 PM  
Subject: FW: (DR4337) SF1955936 Request from [REDACTED] Senator for information [SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE:SECURITY]

Hi there,

This is the reply relating to MP and Senator requests. All jobs of this nature (including Parliamentary Library) will have the same ruling.

Jane did call about a request from the Library and I advised the same thing.

If you have any questions please let me know

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 April 2010 4:01 PM  
**To:** mi.adhoc@centrelink.gov.au  
**Subject:** RE: (DR4337) SF1955936 Request from [REDACTED] Senator for information [SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE:SECURITY]

Hi [REDACTED],

Unfortunately this request hasn't been cleared.

It has been recommended to us that any requests for data from Senators or Members of Parliament should be gathered using existing sources, directed either to the Ministers Office or raised in a QON format.

This is the appropriate mechanism and flow for parliamentary members to gain access to data and should apply to all requests of this nature.

If you would like to discuss, please give me a call on [REDACTED]

Sorry about the slow turn around on this one...

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]