

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Pre-Budget deficit document

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: F15

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RYAN: That is very helpful and we may end up with some more formal guidance from the courts in coming months. I turn now to a document that the minister was waving around on a television program in March, called Pre-budget deficit: Tony Abbott and the coalition. I believe it had a red, but I only have a black and white one

...

Senator Wong: You are asking me in estimates whether the Labor Party had a role—is that what you are asking me?

Senator RYAN: I was just asking—

Senator Wong: The department has had no role.

Senator RYAN: Exactly. It was produced in your office?

Senator Wong: Yes. I cannot recall whether the ALP had involvement, but certainly they authorised it is so they must have. But I can take that on notice if you really want me to. Of course estimates, technically, is not really about my relationship with the Labor Party. I think that is self-evident; it is about the budget.

...

Senator RYAN: I will leave it there, but I would be interested in knowing whether it was done in conjunction with the ALP or done solely in your office. As you said, you would take it on notice.

Senator Wong: I will, but it was authorised by Mr Wright.

Answer:

The document was produced by the Minister's office based on publicly available information for the purposes of the informing the public of the Opposition's pre-budget fiscal position of a \$9 billion deficit in 2012-13, and was authorised by Mr George Wright.