

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Topic: Meeting with Mr Evan Thornley

Question reference number: CC3a

Type of Question: (Hansard F&PA page 101, 19 October 2009)

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of Pages: 1

Question: (Senator Abetz)

Senator ABETZ—...Minister, there was a [question on notice], reference CC18, Hansard page F&PA49, from the May hearings where I asked about an article in the *Australian* newspaper of 25 March 2009 in relation to whether or not you had met with Mr Evan Thornley...

The question could have been interpreted as including what was discussed, so can I reframe that question and simply ask whether or not you met with Mr Thornley as reported in the paper, without traversing what may have been or may not have been discussed.

[...]

Senator Wong—...I would like to make the observation that I do not believe that this particular individual nor any company with which the individual is associated has received a grant from my department. I might be corrected on that. I certainly do not recall having signed off on such a grant. If that is the question, we can certainly take that on notice, and I suppose in that context it might be relevant as to whether I met with them...

Answer:

In reference to the article in *The Australian* of 25 March 2009, the answer is no. The records suggest that my office met with representatives from Better Place in September 2008.