

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010**

**Question: PM13**

**Asked By: Senator Fifield**

**Topic: Allocation of Ministerial Responsibilities**

**Type of Question: FPA 57, 18 October**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator FIFIELD-In terms of detailed responsibility but not in terms of broad responsibility, such as who has disabilities.**

**Dr Southern-Senator, I just cannot recall, we would have to take that one on notice.**

**Senator FIFIELD-Okay. I am just wondering at the time of the announcement, if anyone in government had an idea as to who actually had responsibility for disabilities. I know it was subsequently cleared up within a couple of days with Senator McLucas being formally allocated and given the title of disabilities, but if you could take on notice if, at the time of the announcement, it was-we know Minister Macklin was the senior portfolio minister, but who had day-to-day responsibility in the executive below Ms Macklin.**

**Senator Chris Evans-I think consistent with the officers' earlier advice would be that they would not have known at the time of announcement.**

**Senator FIFIELD-If you could just take on notice-**

**Senator Chris Evans-Yes, certainly.**

**Answer:** On 11 September, the Prime Minister announced the ministry and indicated that that there would be two Parliamentary Secretaries appointed to the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio. The Prime Minister also advised in the press release of 11 September that it would be a matter for Ms Macklin, as the senior minister in the portfolio, to determine the allocation of responsibilities to the Parliamentary Secretaries in the portfolio.