

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (174) Program: Internal Product

Senator Fielding asked:

- (1) Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue Book')?
- (2) Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
- (3) If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
- (4) If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
- (5) Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

*Answer:*

(1) Yes.

(2), (3) and (4) A redacted copy of the brief is provided with this answer. The redacted copy includes all material in the brief which has been released by the department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*(FOI Act). The redactions remove:

- material release of which could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the security, defence and international relations of the Commonwealth;
- material disclosure which would affect the operations of the department;
- material subject to Legal Professional Privilege;
- deliberative material which it would be contrary to the public interest to release under the FOI Act and
- material relating to the personal privacy of individuals.

(5) No.