

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into the DEEWR Tender Process to award employment services contracts

EEWR_SIH_H70

Senator Fifield asked on 11 June 2009, EEWL Hansard pages 86 – 87.

Question

Would you be able to provide to the committee the dates of those briefings with the minister? The dates of the face to face briefings and also the dates on which the written briefing was provided to the minister's office?

Answer

Consistent with normal processes of government it would be usual practice to provide regular update briefings to the Minister.

On 3 March 2009, the department made its decision regarding preferred tenderers and on 5 March 2009 via video conference, the [previous] Minister and Chief of Staff were provided with a high level brief for information on the department's decisions. A written brief for noting followed on 6 March 2009. The department's decisions of 3 March 2009 were advised to tenderers on 16 March 2009

Consistent with standard processes, staff of the [previous] Minister's Office over the next 3 weeks were provided with progress briefings on the tender process and proposed communication arrangements for the final announcement on five (5) occasions. The external independent probity adviser was either present at the meetings or advised by the department on the matters covered at the meetings. The dates of these meetings were 9th, 13th, 20th, 22nd and 27th March.

The department informed the [previous] Minister's office of its final decisions in relation to the tender on 31 March 2009.

The [previous] Minister received a verbal briefing for information of the department's final decision on the morning of 1 April 2009 just prior to his announcing the high level results that afternoon. A written brief for noting dated 1 April 2009 was provided.