

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
OCTOBER 2025**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 1.2: National Security and Resilience

SE25-0025 - Australian citizens returning from Syria - secretary's notes from meeting with the minister

Senator James Paterson asked:

Senator PATERSON: The minister was able to, before, tell me exactly what happened at this meeting, so perhaps the minister can seek that information from the minister's office and turn it around as quickly as you did before. Ms Foster, do you have access to your notes from this meeting?

Ms Foster: Not easily.

Senator PATERSON: Why is that?

Ms Foster: I'd have to establish which date, find out which notebook and check that there were notes.

Senator PATERSON: It wouldn't be an electronic note; it would be a handwritten note?

Ms Foster: If I took a note, it would be.

Senator PATERSON: Do any of your staff have access to those documents?

Ms Foster: I think it would be very difficult for them to find those. I think I would need to go back through and look for those.

Senator PATERSON: Can I ask you, on notice, to produce a copy of any notes you made in that meeting?

Ms Foster: I can certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

Notes from the meeting are attached.

Save the Children

- global org
- visited camps 2022
- worked with Krishna K
- spoke to Penny + Clare
- habeas corpus
- Richard Feakes helpful
- understand it didn't go as well publicly
- legal action as last resort
- can bring a new case but too costly
- boys coming of age and could be separated from families
- drone attacks - less guards
- concern abt getting thru winter

- dentistry story of grand-daughter
- all have been done safely from all countries
- TB
 - c'ment to go find a way
 - delay does not come at no cost
 - politics harder at this end of term
 - public pressure makes it harder. · don't want govt to rule it out
 - balance responsibilities - Aus in Syria
 - success of first cohort will be great help after we've got them home
 - can't see a way to navigate earlier

KD
· how can we help?

· our experience is that we
only get traction with
public pressure - but
that was 2019

TB

- contact in dept
- answer in what we
can do to help