

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 327

Program No. Legal

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Ministerial Advisory Council

Senator Urquhart asked:

In relation to the Ministerial Advisory Council(s) on 7 March 2014 referred to in *The Australian* on 3 March (*Ownership reach rule on Lib's hit list*).

1. Was there one or more than one Council meeting? If more than one, what dates were they held on?
2. Which executives were invited to attend, and if more than one meeting which meeting?
3. Which executives attended?
4. How were executives chosen for invitation?
5. If executives in telecommunications were chosen by size of service provider is it appropriate that only the largest firms are represented? How would such a selection policy sit with competition principles?
6. Was the Minister for Small Business consulted on which executives should be invited?

Answer:

1. The Ministerial Advisory Council on Communications (MACC) met in two sessions on 7 March 2014.
2. All MACC members were invited to attend the meeting on 7 March 2014. The full MACC membership is available here:
http://www.minister.communications.gov.au/malcolm_turnbull/news/advisory_council_meets_to_discuss_reform_agenda
3. Both sessions on 7 March 2014 were very well attended by members of the MACC. It is not appropriate to comment on whether individual members were available to attend a particular meeting.
4. The MACC membership comprises chief executive officers from key companies across the communications sector.
5. Members were not chosen by size of the relevant service provider.
6. The Department of Communications did not consult the Minister for Small Business in relation to the membership of the MACC.