

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009–10 —October 2009**  
**Questions on Notice (QON) index—Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio**

**Written questions on notice**

**FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10 —October 2009**  
**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

Answers to the QON taken or submitted during the Supplementary Estimates hearings, are due on **Friday 4 December 2009**.

Topic: Health and wellbeing of staff

**PM1(a–d) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

- a) Of the health and wellbeing programs offered to employees in 2008–09 (see answer to question on notice PM36c from May Budget Estimates), which ones are still operating?
- b) Are there any new programs on offer since May 2009?
- c) How many employees are currently participating in each program and at what cost?
- d) Has there been a rise or fall in employee absenteeism since 30 April 2009?

Topic: Entertainment costs

**PM2 (a–b) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

*See Danielle Cronin, 'Party time: \$580,000 for official events', Canberra Times, 10/9/09*

**Michael Jeffrey dinner**

- a) The send-off dinner for former Governor-General Michael Jeffery cost almost \$127,000. How many guests attended this function?
- b) Can you provide me with a breakdown of the \$26,000 bar tab from that function? Eg exactly what sorts of alcohol were purchased?

**PM3 (a–b) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

**Cricket dinner**

- a) Why was there over \$2000 difference between the 2008 PM’s XI dinner and the 2009 dinner?
- b) Does the Government seek tenders for all catering events? Which companies are used?

Topic: Reporting on the Nation Building Program

**PM4 (a–e) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

At the last Estimates, Mr Mrdak stated that “we are requiring the states and territories to report every month on expenditure and project process against every project, so for every school and every housing project we get a monthly report. The first detailed monthly report will be for this month, May...” (*F&PA Estimates Hansard, 26.5.09, p.40*)

- a) Have all states and territories presented a monthly report since May?
- b) Have they all been presented on time? (eg no delays)
- c) According to the most recent reports, are all projects on time and on and/or under budget?
- d) If not, how many projects are behind and how many are over budget?
- e) At this point in time, how is the deliverability of the projects looking?

Topic: Energy Efficient Homes package

**(Transferred to DEWHA) PM5 (a–b) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

During the last Estimates I was told that the advertising campaign for the Energy Efficient Homes package was “being developed and will be progressed,” and that the “concepts” were “being developed by the department.” (*F&PA Estimates Hansard, 26.5.09, p.109*).

- a) How is the development of the advertising campaigns progressing?
- b) How close are they to completion?

***(Transferred to DEWHA) PM6 (a–d) - PM&C – (Bernardi)***

An answer to a Question on Notice revealed that the Dept of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has a budget of \$24.3 million to advertise the *Energy Efficient Homes* package. (PM81, Answer to Question on Notice, May 2009 Budget Estimates).

At the time, it was proposed to use this funding for TV, print, radio and internet advertising, direct mail and sponsorship of community events.

- a) Are all of these advertising areas being used for the Energy Efficient Homes package?
- b) Do you know how much is being spent on each of these (eg how much for TV advertising, how much for radio advertising)?
- c) Why was the figure of \$24 million chosen for the advertising? Eg was any modelling done to estimate the amount of funds that would be needed to advertise this package?
- d) Is the advertising expected to come in under Budget?

***(Transferred to DEWHA) PM7 (a–b) - PM&C – (Bernardi)***

At the last Estimates, Mr Mrdak said that “what we are looking to do from 1 July is essentially remove the upfront payment from households so that the government will directly pay the installer.” (F&PA Estimates Hansard, 26.5.09, pp.110-111).

- a) Has this change occurred?
- b) Were there any costs associated with making this change to the package?

***(Transferred to DEWHA) PM8 (a–e) - PM&C – (Bernardi)***

A number of fires have occurred across Australia as a result of dodgy insulation installations and the WA Dept of Commerce has warned that the increase in demand for roof insulation “may attract inexperienced installers to the industry” that may pose dangers for householders. (Greg Hunt media release, 10.10.09).

- a) Is the Department aware of these instances of dodgy installations that have, at times, caused fires to break out?
- b) How many instances like this have involved installations that are part of the Energy Efficient Homes package?
- c) What action has been taken by the Government to stop these installers taking part in the Energy Efficient Homes package?
- d) Is the Government considering providing extra assistance as part of the program to pensioners and people with disability, to have inspections of their rooves and ceiling cavities done?
- e) Is the Government considering an audit of this program, given the prevalence of dodgy installations?

Topic: 2008–09 Annual Report

**PM9 (a–b) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

- a) In the Annual Report, it is stated that “In the 2009 Budget, the government committed additional funding for the Community Cabinet program to resource:” and then lists four areas (Dept of PM&C Annual Report 2008–09, p.82). Can you provide me with a breakdown of exactly how much of this ‘additional funding’ is allocated to each of the four areas listed on page 82?
- b) According to the Annual Report, 99.95 per cent of congratulatory messages were received on time (Dept of PM&C Annual Report 2008–09, p.86). How does the Department determine if these messages were received by the people on time? Does the Department contact each person to see if they received their message on time?

**PM10 (a–f) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

The Department stated that it “developed documentation to put in place a panel arrangement for the provision of maintenance, engineering and building services at both residences and to engage a garden and grounds contractor at the Lodge.” (Dept of PM&C Annual Report 2008–09, p.95)

- a) What is the current status of this panel arrangement (has it been established or is it still in the development phase)?
- b) How many people are involved in this arrangement?
- c) What does the panel arrangement aim to do? Why was it put in place?
- d) What are the duties of the garden and grounds contractor?
- e) Is the garden and grounds contractor a newly created position?
- f) Please detail all the costs related to the panel arrangement and the garden and grounds contractor.

**PM11 - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

With regard to the Quality Systems and Reporting Team (Dept of PM&C Annual Report 2008-09, p.99), what exactly is entailed in “monitoring and improving both the timeliness and the quality of information provided to the Prime Minister”? What exactly do the people on the Team do on a daily basis?

Topic: Situation Room (Parliament House Briefing Room)

**PM12 (a–d) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

- a) How long will actual construction of the Parliament House Briefing Room (PHBR) take?
- b) What facilities in the new PHBR will improve real time communications, compared to those in the Cabinet Room?
- c) Will members of the other parties and non-government officials be allowed access to the PHBR in order to develop appropriate responses to crises?
- d) The Information Circular (30 Sept, No. 2009/44) stated that DPS is developing a relocation plan for the 20 staff who currently reside in MG18. What are the details of this relocation plan?

**PM13 (a–d) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

The Information Circular (No. 2009/44) also said that the Dept of House of Reps was identifying options to relocate the small Ministerial mail room.

- a) What did the Department decide?
- b) What are the details?
- c) The MG18 staff were going to be located to ‘temporary accommodation’. Where is this temporary accommodation?
- d) How are the plans progressing for building the new office space north of the Staff Dining Room?

Topic: teleconferencing rooms

**PM14 (a–c) - PM&C – (Bernardi)**

See Phillip Hudson, ‘High-tech crisis room to be near PM’s office’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1 October 2009, p.4

- a) Where will the 20 teleconferencing rooms across the nation be built (which cities and also which locations within these cities)?
- b) When will these 20 teleconferencing rooms be completed?
- c) How much will the 20 teleconferencing rooms cost?

Topic: National Security College

**PM15 (a–e) - PM&C – (Trood)**

- a) The Prime Minister’s National Security Statement in December 2008 foreshadowed the formation of a National Security College. What progress has been made towards its establishment?
- b) What consideration has been given as to where the college will be located?
- c) How much is the establishment of the college expected to cost?
- d) What consideration has been made about the curriculum of the College and who will train within the college?
- e) Will the College involve partnerships with other educational facilities such as the ANU, the Australian Defence College in Canberra and the Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence in Queanbeyan?

Topic: Crisis Co-ordination Centre

**PM16 (a–b) - PM&C – (Trood)**

The Deputy National Security Advisor, Mr Campbell indicated in the May Senate Estimates that the Office of National Security was working in close consultation with the Parliamentary Departments and the Presiding Officers about the location of a crisis coordination centre.

- a) Have any decisions been made as to the location of the centre?
- b) If so, where will it be located?

Topic: credit card use

**PM17 (a–c) - PM&C – (Ronaldson)**

- a) Has the Prime Minister issued any advice or direction to Ministers in relation to Ministers being provided with credit cards by their Departments (other than Cabcharge cards) for official purposes? If so, what is the nature of that advice?
- b) Has the Prime Minister issued any advice or direction to Ministers in relation to Ministerial Staff being provided with credit cards by their Minister's Department (other than Cabcharge cards) for official purposes? If so, what is the nature of that advice?
- c) Has the Prime Minister, or his staff, been provided with credit cards by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet? If so, how many, of what type and to whom?

**PM18 (a–e) - PM&C – (Ronaldson)**

With reference to the Community Engagement Team, Cabinet division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet:

- a) How many people are employed in this team and what are their levels?
- b) How many are contractors and how many are members of the APS?
- c) How many members of the team have a role which includes moderation of the Prime Minister's 'blog'?
- d) What is the aggregate remuneration provided to persons involved in moderating the Prime Minister's 'blog'?
- e) Are there written guidelines upon which these 'blog' moderators vet comments by members of the public? If so, can they be provided to the Committee?

Topic: Kirribilli House

**PM19 (a–b) - PM&C – (Ronaldson)**

- a) Can you provide a list, including costs, of all renovations and repairs undertaken at Kirribilli House and The Lodge since 1 January 2009?
- b) Can you provide a list, including costs, of all new capital equipment supplied to Kirribilli House of The Lodge since 1 January 2009?

Topic: Wine collection

**PM20 (a–b) - PM&C – (Ronaldson)**

- a) What is the current list of the names and values of the wine collection at both The Lodge and Kirribilli?
- b) Which of these wines were officials gifts received by the Prime Minister, but not personally retained by him?

Topic: Gifts

**PM21 (a–b) - PM&C – (Ronaldson)**

- a) Can the Committee be provided with a list of official gifts received by the Prime Minister since December 2007?
- b) Which of these gifts were personally retained by the Prime Minister?

**OFFICE OF NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS**

Topic: Staffing

**PM22 (a–b) - ONA – (Trood)**

- a) How many positions are currently vacant at Office of National Assessments? In which areas and at what level are those positions?
- b) How long have the positions in the Office of National Assessments been vacant?

Topic: Asia Pacific Community

**PM23 (a–c) - ONA – (Trood)**

- a) In the June Senate Estimates hearings for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Mr Peter Woolcott indicated that Office of National Assessments had been involved in discussions about the Asia Pacific Community. What was the nature of those discussions?
- b) Was the Office of National Assessments asked to provide an assessment of the viability of the Asia Pacific Community concept?
- c) What was that assessment?

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

### **PM24 (a–c) - ANAO – (Bernardi)**

The recent ANAO report summary into government advertising campaigns stated that “there are several areas where, in the light of experience, the Guidelines could be refined or supplemented by additional guidance.” (ANAO Senate Committee Summaries, Campaign Advertising Review 2008–09, report no.2). A letter was sent to the Special Minister of State regarding this.

- a) Exactly what areas of the Guidelines should be refined or supplemented, as indicated in the Summary?
- b) Also, the report summary stated that “there remains further room for agencies to adjust business processes to better align with the requirements of the Guidelines.” Does this mean that some agencies have not been aligning themselves fully with the Guidelines?
- c) Can you provide any examples of agencies not aligning themselves fully with the Guidelines?

### **PM25 (a–b) - ANAO – (Ronaldson)**

In the Campaign Advertising Review tabled in September, the ANAO has sought to have a number of improvements made to the system of government advertising (paragraphs 12–14 inclusive). Could you identify:

- a) What areas of change that you consider to be critical and urgent; and
- b) The Government’s response to these suggestions?

### **PM26 - ANAO – (Ronaldson)**

Has the ANAO now been granted the power to vet all components of a government advertising campaign, including the websites?

### **PM27- ANAO – (Ronaldson)**

How much power does the ANAO have to vet the Public Relations component of an advertising campaign?

### **PM28- ANAO – (Ronaldson)**

Are you aware that most PR firms are able to provide ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ copy materials for their activities? Are these material automatically referred to the ANAO for approval? If not, why not?



## OFFICE OF THE PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

Topic: private i booklets

### PM29 (a–d) - OPC – (Bernardi)

- a) How many runs did you do of the *private i* booklets?
- b) How many *private i* booklets were distributed in total, and where were they distributed to?
- c) How many hits have you have on the youth portal to date?
- d) Have there been any community attitude surveys conducted to determine if the booklet and youth portal have been successful in raising awareness about privacy issues? If so, at what cost were these surveys? If not, are there plans for such surveys in the future?

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE TAKEN DURING HEARING

Answers to the QON taken or submitted during the Supplementary Estimates hearings, are due on Friday 4 December 2009.

QON No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question
PM30 (a–e)	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Hansard 19/10/09  Pages 28, 29	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Mr Brady, [a] how many investitures have there been at Government House since the beginning of 2009? [b] Are these only held at Yarralumla or are they also held at Admiralty House?</p> <p><b>Mr Brady</b>—The figure that I can provide this morning is that there have been 10 investiture ceremonies since the Governor-General took office. I would have to check during the course of these proceedings how many there have been this year...</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Please take that on notice. [c] Could you also provide me with details as to the costs of all these investitures, perhaps from the date that the new Governor-General took office up until today's date, if you would not mind.</p> <p><b>Mr Brady</b>—I will.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>— Is it customary to invite the Leader of the Opposition or his representative to these investitures?</p> <p><b>Mr Brady</b>—It is.</p> <p>[...]</p>

				<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—[d] [Do you know] whether there has been a breach of [the] custom or protocol [to the invite the Leader of the Opposition or his representative to these investitures] over the last two years.</p> <p><b>Mr Brady</b>—I can only speak of the last year that I have been there. I will find out. But, from memory, at each of the investitures there has been someone representing the Leader of the Opposition.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—[e] Since the start of 2009, at how many investitures has the government not been represented, and, indeed, were there three investitures in a row where the government was not represented?</p> <p><b>Ms Prendergast</b>—I would have to take that on notice. I am aware, as Mr Brady said, that, at the investiture that was held in September, there was not a government representative, but I cannot answer for the ones earlier than that.</p>
PM31 a	OOSGG	Ronaldson,	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 31	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Is the job description for the current household attendant different from the job description for people who may have previously filled a role for male Governors-General?</p> <p><b>Mr Brady</b>—I would have to check, Senator...</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Mr Murtagh, if you could get me the duty statement for that position prior to the arrival of the new Governor-General and the description of that position currently, that would be good.</p>
PM31 b	OOSGG	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 32	<p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—Mr Brady, you made the point that the personal attendant—if that is the right term—of the Governor-General is a woman, for obvious reasons. Might I understand from that that there was no consideration given to any male applicants?</p> <p><b>Mr Brady</b>—As I was not involved, I will have to take the question on notice. I simply was not part of the process.</p>
PM31 c	OOSGG	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 32	<p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—...But my question is: when did it become okay for us to make decisions or appointments on the basis solely of gender...</p> <p><b>Mr Brady</b>—...I will just have to take the question and your point on notice.</p>
PM32	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 33	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—What about [the turnover of staff at Government House] from October 2008 to October 2009—what was the percentage there?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—I am sure Mr Fraser will find out for me whether that figure is higher or lower than 17.2 per cent. I presume he is going to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Mr Fraser</b>—I will take that on notice...</p>

PM33	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 34	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—What percentage of the salaries would [those positions where there were separations but they will not be filled] represent, Mr Murtagh? Do you want to take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Murtagh</b>—I would have to take that on notice...</p>
PM34	OOSGG	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 38	<p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—Mr Brady, just a few brief questions. My information is that the capital works program on the official residences was going to be \$970,000.</p> <p><b>Mr Murtagh</b>—I believe you are referring to the response to some questions on notice. That response covers works that were approved at that time and, yes, the expected cost was \$970,000.</p> <p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—I actually was taking this from a newspaper article. I may have missed the response on notice. It was spread across a range of projects. Can you give me a breakdown of what those projects are or have you already put that on notice?</p> <p><b>Mr Murtagh</b>—That has been advised on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—I will accept that. Thank you.</p>
PM35 (a-c)	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Hansard 19/10/09  Pages 41, 42	<p><b>Mr Murtagh</b>— [a] I signed off on the tender [for repairs at Admiralty House]. It was assessed by my project manager.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—On what date did you sign off on it?</p> <p><b>Mr Murtagh</b>—I am just trying to recall. I do not recall the date. It was the week before the works were to start. I am happy to get back to you with that date. [...]</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>— [b] With the greatest respect, would you go back and have a look [at the timeframe of the tender process for the refurbishment and bracing and strengthening of the roof before stripping out the bathrooms at Admiralty House] and we might have another talk about it in February...</p> <p><b>Mr Murtagh</b>—Senator, I am happy to go and check the day on which the tender was signed. I am happy to go and check that date and provide that to you. [...]</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>— [c] How many days [of tender evaluation] was it?</p> <p><b>Mr Fraser</b>—I believe it was three or four working days spent assessing the tender.</p> <p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—You remember that it was eight hours a day but you do not remember whether it was three or four days. You cannot be more specific.</p> <p><b>Mr Fraser</b>—As I think the senator indicated, the tender itself closed on the Thursday. We assessed on the Friday and, I believe, on the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I think the report was signed off on the following Thursday or thereabouts. We need to check the specific timing.</p>

PM36 (a-c)	PM&C	Parry	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 46	<p><b>Senator PARRY</b>—I have got questions which may need to be taken on notice; in fact, I am sure they will be. In response to cabinet formally considering the National Broadband Network policy on 7 April 2009: [a] firstly, could advice be given to this committee as to the commencement time of that cabinet meeting; [b] secondly, what was the duration of that cabinet meeting; and, [c] thirdly, who was present at that cabinet meeting?</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—We would have to take those sorts of details on notice.</p>
PM37 (a-b)	PM&C	Coonan	Hansard 19/10/09  Pages 49, 50	<p><b>Senator COONAN</b>—What chart 10 [of the economic stimulus package progress report] shows very clearly is that the primary driver of the stimulus becomes the construction and infrastructure projects planned for and approved in the last five months of the 2008-09 financial year and due to roll out this year, next year and a bit into 2011-12.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak</b>—That is correct.</p> <p><b>Senator COONAN</b>—Unfortunately, I do not have a colour chart here and I cannot see it very clearly, because apparently there are different colours. [a] Could you tell me what is left to go, in dollar terms, in 2009-10? [b] Perhaps you could do a breakdown across the four years of cash and infrastructure for each of the years 2008-09 through to 2011-12.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak</b>—You are looking at the straight cash per year?</p> <p><b>Senator COONAN</b>—Yes, could you go across each chart and tell me how much cash and how much infrastructure it is in billions each year.</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak</b>—Again, I do not have the exact figures. I do apologise. I can get those for you...</p>
PM38	PM&C	Coonan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 52	<p><b>Senator COONAN</b>—How much was it with the little green bit that you have published in your report? How much was it then?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak</b>—I will get you an accurate figure while we are talking, if that is okay, Senator; I will track that down.</p>
PM39	PM&C	Coonan	Hansard 19/10/09  Pages 53, 54	<p><b>Senator COONAN</b>—...of the approved but not commenced category, what percentage have signed contracts?</p> <p><b>Ms Granger</b>—We will have to take that one on notice. We do not have that information here. We will see if we can get it.</p> <p><b>Senator COONAN</b>—All right. Could I get you to take on notice, please, and provide me with a list of all the projects and what category they fall into so that it makes some sense out of the chart?</p> <p><b>Mr Mrdak</b>—Certainly we can do that.</p>

PM40	PM&C	Coonan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 54	<b>Senator COONAN</b> —I am just interested to get some overall clear picture with this massive spending project. What is the funding parcel, what has actually been approved, what has been commenced and what has been spent? <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —We will give you that detail.
PM41	PM&C	Coonan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 56	<b>Senator COONAN</b> —What was the increased [school] enrolment number? <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —I will have to seek that from the department of education, Senator; if you do not mind, I will seek that.
PM42	PM&C	Coonan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 57	<b>Mr Mrdak</b> —There was a very low take-up of [the Low Emission Assistance Plan for Renters] program, Senator, since February and it was felt that by rolling that into the mainstream program there would be more effective delivery and that provided the opportunity for those funds to be applied to be Building the Education Revolution program. <b>Senator COONAN</b> —How many had applied? <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —I will get you the exact number and take it on notice. I will get the exact number of how many applications there were. A very small number applied under the low-income renters scheme.
PM43	PM&C	Coonan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 59	<b>Senator COONAN</b> —It is table 2 of your document. It is my page 25, but it may not be yours. Approved funding, \$5,876,000, but it would be for other things. I am wondering how much funding there was for [New South Wales] schools? <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —I do not have the figure broken down by schools, but I can get that for you, if that is okay.
PM44 (a–d)	PM&C	Coonan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 63	<b>Senator COONAN</b> —I have run out of time for my questions so what I am asking you to particularly take on notice for me in relation to that earlier chart, chart 3, [a] with the allocation, [b] the money approved, [c] the money actually rolled out, is a list of all the projects in each of the particular categories of the package and [d] where in particular in relation to approvals there is a contract signed and where there is not. <sup>1</sup> <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —We will take that on notice.
PM45 (a–b)	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 63	<b>Senator RYAN</b> —I was wondering if you could take on notice—and I imagine it would be relatively easy for you to provide the information—[a] a list for the committee of the states and territories’ coordinators-general and [b] the positions they hold within their respective jurisdictions. <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —We can do that, Senator.
PM46	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09	<b>Senator RYAN</b> —If there are any other changes [to the COAG milestones]— <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —I will let you know. But there are only those two elements that I am aware of.

<sup>1</sup> See PM93

			Page 65	
PM47	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 65	<b>Senator RYAN</b> —I would now like to turn to the issue of project management fees. In May you advised the committee that, ‘We are currently doing an analysis of project management fees being charged across the jurisdictions.’ Can that analysis be made available to the committee?  <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —You will have to bear with me. I am not sure that has been finalised as yet. Can I take that on notice and come back to you, if that is okay...
PM48	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Pages 65,66	<b>Senator RYAN</b> —I think you would appreciate that one of our challenges and why we asked you to attend is that you are the Coordinator-General that was set up and your office was created to coordinate the program and presumably meet the benchmarks the government had set through the COAG process. It makes it very difficult for senators to chase down through every single line agency whether or not the benchmarks that you yourself have set are being met. Would it be possible for us to be given a tabulation of what proportion of projects are falling outside the benchmarks that you have set for reasonable project management fees? I think you will understand it is a matter of some public concern.  <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —It is, and I will take that on notice, if you do not mind. I will raise that with agencies.
PM49	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 66	<b>Ms Granger</b> —If I could just add to that answer. There are Treasury representatives who are part of our weekly coordinators meeting across the Commonwealth, and we use that opportunity both to give feedback from the coordinators about any trends they are seeing in relation to states and territories and also to get feedback from Treasury around the maintenance of effort issues.  <b>Senator RYAN</b> —Again, if you could take that on notice. If there has been a change to the benchmarks I would be interested, because your answer to PM52 last time said:  ... MinCo will take into account that factors outside a State’s control may result in a State not meeting the Benchmark.  I would appreciate being informed if any of those benchmarks have been altered, particularly as we have gone through a state budgetary round.  <b>Ms Granger</b> —The Treasury portfolio will be able to answer your questions on that.  <b>Mr Mrdak</b> —We will also need to take that on notice.
PM50	PM&C	Cameron	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 69	<b>Senator CAMERON</b> —In relation to the ongoing operation of the stimulus package, have you got any examples in New South Wales—I am a senator for New South Wales—of some of the big milestones that have been achieved in the package? You might like to take that on notice.  <b>Ms Granger</b> —Perhaps we should take that on notice and see what we can get you.
PM51 (a-c)	APSC	Moore	Hansard 19/10/09	<b>Senator MOORE</b> —I have one question, Ms McGregor...about the network you have developed for the commission. Is there any incentive or compulsion to departments to take part in that network? My understanding is that normally the commission encourages people to be involved and talks about best practice. But I am just a little concerned about how you find out whether all the agencies that should be

			Page 71	<p>involved are and what can you do to ensure that that does happen?</p> <p><b>Ms McGregor</b>—We do, as you say, encourage them and there usually is a pretty strong take-up. What we can do, if you like, is find out who has attended the network and where there may be gaps. I do not have that data on me at the moment.</p> <p><b>Senator MOORE</b>—It would just be useful to know, particularly for the next round of estimates, exactly which agencies have taken part, because sometimes the good ones cover up for the ones who are not so good.</p>
PM52 (a–b)	PM&C	Ronaldson	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 72</p>	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—[a] Do you accept that there has been a 66 per cent staff turnover in the space of less than two years in the Prime Minister’s office?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—I will have a look at that myself and pull out a calculator in due course.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—Take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—I will take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>—[b] If it was 66 per cent, do you think that would be incredibly high and certainly way beyond any staff turnover in other ministers’ offices? Indeed, think from this article it seems that for former prime ministers Howard, Keating and Hawke there was only fairly minor turnover. But, anyway, you will take that on notice, will you?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—As I said, I will have a look at it...</p>
PM53 (a–d)	PM&C	Ronaldson	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Pages 84, 118, 119</p>	<p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>— Minister...Can you advise this committee, first, [a] whether Minister Burke approached Ms Lei and asked her to change this website? [b] Will you then come back to this committee and advise this committee whether anyone in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet spoke to Ms Lei and asked her to remove that name from the website?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator RONALDSON</b>— ...[c] Will you take it on notice and come back to this committee and advise whether anyone authorised by Mr Burke or on Mr Burke’s behalf ask Ms Lei to remove that from the website? [d] Will you also come back to this committee and advise whether anyone associated with the Australian Labor Party asked Ms Lei to remove Mr Burke being an honorary counsel from the website?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—I can see what I can do to provide a response to the committee. I think it is reasonable for me in my role to examine the question you have raised about the minister. I am not sure it goes to the breadth of the Labor Party, but I will see what I can find out for you.</p>
PM54	PM&C	Ryan	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p>	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Is it possible to get a simplified list of where the additional staff have been placed in the context of the organisational chart of the department?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—Yes.</p>

			Page 85	<b>Senator RYAN</b> —I would appreciate it if that could be provided.
PM55 a	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 86	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Have any of the additional staff been employed in a media and/or a corporate communications role within the department?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—No, not that I am aware of.</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—If you could confirm that, it would be appreciated—whether it be corporate communications in the widest definition of the term, external communications or media relations.</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—Could you be more explicit around what you mean by media relations?</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Departments have media officers—people who assist ministers’ officers in drafting up press releases. They have staff preparing newsletters that may be sent out as a departmental newsletter. They prepare material that may not be of a political nature but may be of a government announcement nature. There are people answering queries from media about technical aspects of programs. So whether it is media relations or communications generally, they are usually located, I understand, in a corporate services or governance part of a department. I would be interested in whether there had been any increase in the last 12 months in those areas and what the increase was compared to where it was 12 months ago.</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—We can have a look at that for you.</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Thank you...</p>
PM55 b	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 86	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—...Do you have a figure for the increase in wage, salary and other associated costs for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet?</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—Are you referring to salary costs for the 2009-10 year, or—</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—I am referring to the additional cost of the extra employees in the annual report compared to 12 months ago. I have only had this for a couple of days, I am afraid, so I have not had a chance to—</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—I understand that completely. It may be difficult to provide precisely the breakdown you are looking for but we can have a look at the additional resources that were provided to the department in previous budget announcements that applied for the 2008-09 year and extract out of that how much is the wages, salaries and supplements component. We can at least see if we can do that.</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—That would be appreciated. I would like you to compare the numbers this year to the numbers 12 months ago.</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—We will make our best efforts to do that for you.</p>
PM56	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 87	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—What proportion of the eligible bonus was rolled into salaries?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—I think it was around 70 per cent of what was available.</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—So 70 per cent of the maximum bonus was rolled into the base salary?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—That is my understanding.</p>



				<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—I am happy for you to take that on notice, but I would also appreciate an explanation, whether it be part-year effects—and I know I am not necessarily looking at the same people, but there is a doubling of the number of people who are paid more than \$295,000 according to your table. Could you take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—We could certainly take that on notice...</p>
PM57 (a–c)	PM&C	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 91	<p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—I have some questions in regard to the annual report, Ms Beauchamp. On page 96 of the annual report it says that a noise reduction and heat retention product was installed on the windows and glass doors of the rooms that face Adelaide Avenue—I would guess this is in regard to the Lodge. On whose request was the noise reduction installed?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—I will take that on notice, only because I want to confirm it.</p> <p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—[b] I am interested in the cost and whose request it was? [c] Have noise levels increased so significantly that this was a required operation?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—If there were an energy efficiency measure which came with an additional bonus of there being a noise reduction as well, I cannot tell—we will take it on notice.</p>
PM58	PM&C	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 91	<p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—...I appreciate there are professional development programs, are there additional programs that have not hitherto been used and have there been increases in existing programs and, if so, what is the quantum of those increases? You might want to take it on notice.</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—In terms of quantum, are you talking about the number of people accessing—</p> <p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—No; dollars. But numbers of people—why not? It might be helpful. You are going to take that on notice?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—I will take that on notice.</p>
PM59	PM&C	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 92	<p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—When the decision is made where the community cabinet will be, the information will be available from the website. For local residents in that particular area, a small notice will be put in one of the local papers.</p> <p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—But what about the information provided to members of parliament and senators? Is there any formal notification process?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—I will have to take that on notice.</p>
PM60	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 93	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Could you table a list of the duty senators for the government, please, as informed by the department for notification of community cabinet meetings?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—I will take that on notice.</p>

PM61 (a-b)	PM&C	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 94	<p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—Will you take on notice...[a] whether they [CCSTU members attending community cabinet forums] have been paid for their attendance or have taken leave and [b] whether any travel allowance or any other payments have been made by the government to those people for attending?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—I will take that on notice and see what information we can get to you.</p>
PM62	PM&C	Bernardi	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 94	<p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—Ms Beauchamp, would you undertake to provide me with a list of all questions asked at community cabinet meetings and the responses.</p> <p><b>Dr Grimes</b>—It may not be the case that we have that information. We can certainly look to see if it is available, but it would essentially be a transcript of the community cabinet meeting itself.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—I will also be looking at the time required to put that information together. I do not want to divert unnecessary resources if it is already publicly available. We will do the best we possibly can, Senator.</p> <p><b>Senator BERNARDI</b>—Sure, and you can point me to where it is publicly available. I will be perfectly happy with that.</p>
PM63	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 95	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—I would appreciate if it were possible for you to take on notice the notice you have provided for each of the community cabinet meetings, the date it was provided and to whom. By that I am referring to the date the advertisement was provided, whether or not there was any local mail about the upcoming meeting and the date it was provided to any other parties—including sitting members—for each of the community cabinets. And we have just heard that your department advises Labor duty senators of community cabinets.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Only what the department puts out—to whom and the date for each of the community cabinet meetings. Is that possible?</p>
PM64	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 95	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—At whose request was the department instructed to notify Labor Party duty senators but no other senators of community cabinet meetings and when was that advice provided or that request or directive made?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
PM65 (a-c)	PM&C	Ryan	Hansard 19/10/09  Pages 95, 96	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—[a] ...Minister, if I can ask you this in your capacity as Cabinet Secretary: do you or your office inform the CCTSU of the dates and locations of upcoming community cabinet meetings following advice from the department of them being called or your directive to the department to call them?</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—I will take that on notice.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—[b]...I should clarify: my previous question I am also asking you in your capacity as</p>

				<p>representing the Prime Minister. So: if his office has undertaken similar action in informing the CCTSU.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—All right. I thought you had only limited it to me.</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—No, I am asking you in that capacity as well. I would also like you to answer, again, in your capacity as representing the Prime Minister as well as Cabinet Secretary: does his office, or you or your office, inform the Labor Party of the dates and locations of upcoming community cabinet meetings? [c] And, if so, I would like to know the dates of such advice and when it was provided.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—I will take that on notice and have a look at that.</p>
PM66	PM&C	Ryan	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 96</p>	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Can I also ask the same questions of you, Ms Beauchamp. Do you advise state governments or state members of parliament of upcoming community cabinets?</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—Not that I am aware of.</p> <p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—If it is different, I would appreciate—</p> <p><b>Ms Beauchamp</b>—If they are local members and engaged in that particular community—I would have to take that on notice.</p>
PM67	PM&C	Ryan	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 96</p>	<p><b>Senator RYAN</b>—Senator Ludwig: I would appreciate you saying—again, in your own capacity and representing the Prime Minister—whether [or] not you, your office or his office notify state governments and state members of parliament of upcoming community cabinet meetings and, if so, to whom that notice is provided. I would be interested in knowing to which state members of parliament or state governments such community cabinet notice was provided.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—I will see what I can find out and take that on notice.</p>
PM68	PM&C	Trood	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 99</p>	<p><b>Senator TROOD</b>—When was the first of those [interagency counterterrorism white paper] meetings? Can you tell me?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—I would need to take that on notice. I do not know.</p>
PM69 (a-c)	PM&C	Trood	<p>Hansard 19/10/09</p> <p>Page 100</p>	<p><b>Senator TROOD</b>—...recent plot which was foiled with regard to the seeming attack on an Australian Army base...</p> <p>[...]</p> <p><b>Senator TROOD</b>—[a] Can you tell me when the office was first advised about the knowledge of the plot, if I can call it that?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p><b>Senator TROOD</b>—Would you, and would you also take on notice [b] when the Prime Minister was first briefed about the matter?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—Sure.</p>

				<p><b>Senator TROOD</b>—[c] And by whom he was briefed. That would be helpful.</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—Yes.</p> <p><b>Senator Ludwig</b>—We will see what we can provide. It will depend on the security classification of that information and what we can make available. I am sure that is what Mr Campbell was going to add.</p>
PM70	PM&C	Trood	Hansard 19/10/09  Page 101	<p><b>Senator TROOD</b>—So the question of base security alerts and things of that kind was not a matter that touched your office, not an activity for which you had any responsibilities?</p> <p><b>Mr Campbell</b>—As I said, we were aware and the relevant agencies were also aware and active.</p> <p><b>Senator TROOD</b>—Perhaps you could get that information for me or at least inquire. I will put that on notice as well.</p>