Questions on notice from the public hearing for the Inquiry into Home Ownership before the House Economics Committee, 26 June 2015

1. **Mr Husic:** Terrific. My final question is one on notice. In relation to the report itself, who is taking the lead within PM&C to frame the response to the report, and when do you anticipate that you will be releasing a response to this report? If I can put that question on notice and if you can answer that, that would be good.
   Ms Carroll: Yes, that is fine.

   Response: The Department of Social Services has portfolio responsibility for housing affordability within the Commonwealth and is preparing the Government response to the Senate Economics Committee Inquiry into Affordable Housing. The timing for the release of the response is a matter for the Government. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has been consulted as part of this process, and Economic Division is co-ordinating input from within PM&C.

2. **Mr Husic:** Do you represent the focus of thought within PM&C on matters relating to housing affordability, or are there others within the department that are dedicated to policy consideration on this front?
   Ms Carroll: Economic Division has the broad lead. Obviously it would match across to Treasury. Across PM&C we broadly match the departments that exist across government, so Social Policy Division would obviously also have a role. But we can take that on notice and get the detail back to you across the whole report.

   Response: The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has portfolio responsibility for Indigenous housing matters. The Indigenous Affairs Group is the area within PM&C with responsibility for Indigenous policy.

   PM&C also provides advice to the Prime Minister on a range of housing affordability issues, as required, following consultation with relevant departments. This may involve a number of divisions within the department.

   PM&C is also leading the White Paper on Reform of the Federation, which is examining Commonwealth, state and territory roles and responsibilities including with respect to the provision of housing assistance and homelessness services.

   However, PM&C is not the Commonwealth agency with primary responsibility for housing affordability. The Department of Social Services has portfolio responsibility for housing affordability and the Treasury has portfolio responsibility for housing supply within the Commonwealth.

3. **Mr Husic:** I am not sure who to ask this question of, so I am just going to put it forward. I am happy for you to take this on notice if you are not in a position to answer or do not have the authority. Given that both the Prime Minister and the Treasurer have made a range of comments on this issue of housing affordability, has PM&C provided advice to the Prime Minister about the impact of negative gearing and capital gains tax on housing affordability and/or housing prices?
   Ms Carroll: I think we will take on notice the specific detail. We obviously provide advice around the broad issues of housing affordability and home ownership generally through a range of briefing, whether it is around the tax white paper or whatever. But we will take on notice any specific briefing.

   Response: The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provides policy advice to the Prime Minister on a range of matters, including housing affordability issues and taxation, as required.