

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 23-27 February 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Cabinet Process

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 116

Type of question: FPA Monday 23 February 2015, page 46

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Senator Abetz, the Prime Minister went on to say there have been "significant internal changes with cabinet processes". What are the changes to which the Prime Minister referred?

Senator Abetz: The way that cabinet operates is largely a matter for the Prime Minister and cabinet. I am willing to take that on notice just to see how much the Prime Minister is willing to divulge as to what has changed in that regard.

Senator WONG: The issue there is that it is the Prime Minister who has divulged this. The Prime Minister stood up in front of the nation—

Senator Abetz: That is right—

Senator WONG: And he announced with great fanfare that he is a changed man, his government is a changed entity and the cabinet process has changed. So he has chosen to put that into the public arena. I am simply asking what those changes are?

Senator Abetz: I will take that on notice to ensure that you get the appropriate response.

Answer:

The changes to Cabinet procedures were outlined by Mr Fox during the hearings (pages 48-49 of the Hansard refer).