

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: Project Office

Senator: Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig

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Question:

Senator LUDWIG: There is a project office on the PM&C organisational chart. What does that do?

Ms Cross: The Project Office works on particular pieces of work that come up across the department where we need to put additional resources in. It gives us some flexibility. They have policy analytical capacity so, as different issues become priorities, we can use people from the Project Office to put teams together—for example, the climate change task force that we talked about. If we needed additional resources, we might use a team from the Project Office to work on that sort of task. It is our policy analytical capacity for different priorities as they emerge.

Senator LUDWIG: What projects are they currently working on? I am happy for you to take that on notice.

Ms Cross: I am happy to take that on notice. They have been involved in a range of projects across the department. It changes from week to week and month to month.

Answer:

As at 23 February 2015, the Project Office was working on, or assisting with, the following six projects:

1. Martin Place Siege: Joint Commonwealth-New South Wales review;
2. Review of Australia's Counter-Terrorism Machinery;
3. Establishing the Digital Transformation Office;
4. Cutting internal red tape within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C);
5. Exploring additional options for improving remote Indigenous school attendance; and
6. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Taskforce.