

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Industry Investment Competitiveness Taskforce

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 112

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Question:

Senator WONG: This is the problem when the Prime Minister's office change answers. Paragraph (f) of answer to the question on notice says "The terms of reference have not been publically released." This is supposedly the big task force that is going to help develop a national industry investment and competitiveness agenda, making recommendations to government by the end of June 2014. Here you told Senator Ludwig that the terms of reference have not been publicly released. So I again ask why the terms of reference are so secret?

Mr Hazlehurst: They are not secret, as such, but effectively they are set out in the scope—the next part of that response refers to the Prime Minister's press release.

Senator WONG: You are asked for the terms of reference. Why can't you just give us the terms of reference?

Mr Hazlehurst: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The terms of reference have not been released because they are consistent with the scope and focus detailed in the Prime Minister's media release of 18 December 2014 and their further publication is not considered necessary.