

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: Lobbying Code of Conduct - 12 month rule

Senator: Senator Cory Bernardi

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Question:

CHAIR: I would just like to go to the Lobbying Code of Conduct, if I may. I refer to section 7 of the Lobbying Code of Conduct, which says:

Persons who were, after 1 July 2008, employed in the Offices of Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 at Adviser level and above, members of the Australian Defence Force at Colonel level or above (or equivalent), and Agency Heads or persons employed under the Public Service Act 1999 in the Senior Executive Service (or equivalent), shall not, for a period of 12 months after they cease their employment, engage in lobbying activities relating to any matter that they had official dealings with in their last 12 months of employment.

How long has this prohibition clause been in the code?

Ms Kelly: It has certainly been in the code in relation to this government since 2013. I can have some inquiries made about whether or not that was a continuation of an existing provision in the code.

CHAIR: Thank for that, Ms Kelly.

Answer:

The restriction has been in the Lobbying Code of Conduct since it was first established in 2008.