

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: Cabinet Secretary

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 189

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

With reference to evidence the Cabinet Secretary is a member of the Prime Minister's staff and is engaged under the MOP(S) Act (proof Hansard, pg.101) and signs off Cabinet minutes (proof Hansard, pg.102):

1. In addition to signing minutes does the Cabinet Secretary undertake other functions outlined in Annex A to the Cabinet Handbook, including exercising the Prime Minister's authority in relation to authority to bring forward items for consideration?
2. Are the Cabinet Secretary's functions consistent with the limitations imposed on all MOP(S) Act staff under the Statement of Standards for Ministerial Staff?

Answer:

1. The functions outlined in the Cabinet Handbook represent the arrangements in place under the previous Government when the Cabinet Secretary was a member of the Executive. Under this government, the Cabinet Secretary undertakes a range of activities that are described in the answer to question PM93. The Prime Minister provides authority for items being brought forward to the Cabinet for consideration.
2. Yes.