

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: Access to documents under the Archives Act

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 195

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 Senator Smith's questions on notice about access under the Archives Act by former Prime Minister Rudd (proof Hansard, pg.122), specifically (a) documents sought to which access was granted and (b) documents sought to which access was not granted:

If PM&C provides an answer to Senator Smith's question, can the same answer be provided in relation to former Prime Minister Howard's access to documents following his loss of office.

Answer:

In accordance with the special access provisions of the *Archives Act 1983*, sub-section 56(2), former Prime Minister the Hon John Howard OM AC has sought and has been granted access to departmental records he saw or dealt with, or could reasonably be expected to have seen or dealt with, in the course of duties of the office of Prime Minister.