

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: Appointment of Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 215

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Can the selection process for the appointment of Mr Brady's successor as Official Secretary to the Governor-General be outlined, including, but not limited to, the date the process commenced, and the role of (a) the department (b) the Prime Minister and (c) the Prime Minister's Office?

Answer:

The *Governor-General Act 1974* provides that the Official Secretary to the Governor-General shall be appointed by the Governor-General acting with the advice of the Executive Council.

An independent selection process was undertaken based on the process used in 2008 for selection of the previous Official Secretary, Mr Brady.

A request for expressions of interest (EOIs) was circulated to Senior Executive Officers within the Department and to portfolio agencies on 9 May 2014. EOIs were also received from other individuals.

The Secretary of the Department chaired a selection panel to consider the EOIs and a recommendation was made to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister recommended a proposed appointee and the appointment was made by the Governor-General in Council.

The Prime Minister's Office had no role in the process.