

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** PPL

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 198

**Type of question:** FPA 26 May 2015, pages 8 & 9

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: There was no advice sought from the department in relation to the change in policy prior to the announcement?

Senator Cormann: That was obviously a political judgement made by the government and one that the government takes responsibility for.

Senator WONG: Sure, I am not asking that. I just want to know: if there was no advice provided then that is the answer. Was there any advice provided in relation to the change of policy before the announcement?

Ms Cross: Sorry, Senator?

Senator WONG: Was there any advice provided by PM&C in relation to the change in policy prior to the announcement?

Ms Cross: I do not think so, but I will check for you.

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Senator WONG: Do I understand from that, therefore, that the IDC was only informed the Prime Minister had abandoned his PPL scheme as a consequence of the public announcement?

Ms Cross: Again, I would need to check whether the IDC was still meeting at this point in time because, as I said, a number of things were in abeyance until the legislation was finalised.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not provide advice in relation to the change in policy prior to the Prime Minister's announcement.

The Paid Parental Leave Inter-Departmental Committee's last meeting was 22 January 2015. The Committee was not informed of the decision prior to announcement.