

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: Prime Minister's communication with Prime Minister of Japan

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

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Question:

Senator WONG: Dr McCarthy, since the last estimates round, has Prime Minister and Cabinet prepared any brief to the Prime Minister, taken any notes or provided any advice to the Prime Minister in preparation for any dialogue with Prime Minister Abe and, if so, on what occasions?

Dr McCarthy: As I said, we regularly brief the Prime Minister, but I would just like to check. You have identified a quite specific time frame, and we will check for you as soon as we can and come back to you.

Answer:

The former Prime Minister and Prime Minister Abe spoke by phone on 24 March 2015 and met briefly on 29 March 2015 at Mr Lee Kuan Yew's memorial service in Singapore. Consistent with normal practice, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet prepared a brief for the former Prime Minister for these discussions.