

**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:** Federation, Agriculture and Northern Australia Whitepapers – costs of secondees

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 44

**Type of question:** FPA Tuesday 26 May 2015, pages 55 & 56

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Mr de Carvalho: In relation to the 2.209 figure that I gave you, that is PM&C's direct costs for its own staff. There are, as I mentioned, about four or five secondees, which their home departments pay for, and those costs are not included in the 2.2.

Senator WONG: Are you able to take on notice—you will probably need to refer it to the relevant departments—the costs of those staff members?

Mr de Carvalho: Yes, I can do that.

...

Senator WONG: Perhaps on notice, I just want the total costs, insofar as you can provide them, for all three.

Ms Cross: For the staff directly involved in the task forces? Yes.

**Answer:**

Total costs for staff directly involved in the Reform of Federation, Northern Australia and Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper Taskforces are:

Reform of Federation White Paper (approx.)	Northern Australia White Paper (approx.)	Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper (approx.)
\$3.11 million	\$3.38 million	\$3.05 million

Figures provided as at 30 May 2015. Costs are being absorbed within existing departmental budgets.