

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: Meeting with the Chancellor

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 96

Type of question: FPA Monday 25 May 2015, page 121

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Ms Wood, were you the only PM&C officer in the bilateral with the chancellor?

Ms Wood: Yes, I think I was.

Senator WONG: Was there a DFAT official?

Ms Wood: Not to my recollection.

Senator WONG: Who else was in the meeting?

Ms Wood: I would have to check my notes.

Senator WONG: You do not remember?

Ms Wood: There were clearly staff from the Prime Minister's office.

Senator WONG: Which staff?

Dr McCarthy: I think we have already taken on notice—

...

Ms Wood: Senator Wong, in taking this question on notice I would like to provide the participants in the meeting also from PM&C and other agencies. It was last November; I have now recalled there was a note taker in the meeting.

Answer:

In addition to the former Prime Minister and Chancellor Merkel, Australian participants were: the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C); three members of the former Prime Minister's staff; two representatives from PM&C, including a note taker; and the Australian Ambassador to Germany.

Chancellor Merkel was accompanied by five members of her delegation and the German Ambassador to Australia.