

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Allocation of ministerial staff – Special Minister of State

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 103

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Why has the Prime Minister approved an allocation of 13 ministerial staff to the Special Minister of State, Senator Ronaldson, noting the allocation to this junior minister exceeds the allocation to the following Cabinet Ministers: the Minister for Agriculture and Deputy Leader of the Nationals, Mr Joyce, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and Leader of the Nationals in the Senate, Senator Scullion, the Minister for Industry, Mr Macfarlane, the Minister for Communications, Mr Turnbull, the Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, Mr Dutton, the Minister for Small Business, Mr Billson, the Minister for Trade and Investment, Mr Robb, the Minister for Defence, Senator Johnston, and the Minister for the Environment, Mr Hunt

Answer:

The allocation to Senator Ronaldson's office reflects the various ministerial representations he has carriage of across three specific areas of responsibility: Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Special Minister of State and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC. However, it is important to note that the overall quantum of Ministerial Staff positions remain the same as it was under the former Government. The Prime Minister determines allocations within this overall quantum.