

**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:** Cabinet Office

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 115

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

1. What are the functions of the Cabinet Office?
2. Are staff allocated to the Cabinet Office engaged under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984?
3. Are Cabinet Office staff engaged by or on behalf of the Prime Minister?
4. Do Cabinet Office staff report to the Prime Minister?

**Answer:**

1. The functions of the Cabinet Office include:
  - (a) working closely with the Cabinet Secretariat on the programming of Cabinet business;
  - (b) providing advice on matters being considered by the Cabinet as well as on strategic policy directions;
  - (c) providing a medium to longer-term perspective on the policy agenda and outcomes of Cabinet deliberations as they relate to the implementation of the Government's policies and priorities; and
  - (d) working closely with policy advisers in the Prime Minister's Office and the offices of other Cabinet ministers to enhance the linkages between departmental and ministerial sources of advice on Cabinet-related business.
2. Yes, apart from Cabinet Liaison officers who are employees of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and employed under the Public Service Act.
3. Yes
4. Yes