

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 meetings

Senator: Senator the Hon Jacinta Collins

Question reference number: 16

Type of Question: Hansard

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: I believe you will need to take this on notice on the basis of the earlier discussion that you had with Senator Wong. Could you take on notice for the committee, please, to update the table on page 43 of the PM&C annual report, where you outlined the number of meetings held of cabinet, the National Security Committee and other cabinet committees. Now, I am assuming the 2012-13 figures are for that financial year, so that would essentially be to the end of the previous government. Could I ask you to update that up to this point in time, please.

Answer:

See figure 1 on the following page.

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Figure 1 Services to the Cabinet and other decision makers

| Services | 2010–11 | 2011–12 | 2012–13 | 1/7/2013 to 18/11/13 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Meetings held by the Cabinet and its committees in Canberra / Cabinet and committee meetings held outside Canberra | | | | |
| Cabinet | 39 / 1 | 50 / 2 | 40 / 2 | 13 / 1 |
| National Security Committee | 20 / 0 | 27 / 0 | 19 / 0 | 15 / 1 |
| Other Cabinet committees ¹ | 101 / 3 | 113 / 4 | 86 / 3 | 16 / 1 |
| Total meetings held by the Cabinet and its committees | 164 | 196 | 150 | 47 |
| Percentage of Cabinet Minutes released within 24 hours / 48 hours of meeting | | | | |
| Cabinet | 69 / 82 | 73 / 95 | 61 / 88 | 70 / 79 |
| National Security Committee | 50 / 92 | 38 / 82 | 35 / 68 | 38 / 63 |
| All other committees | 32 / 64 | 42 / 74 | 40 / 63 | 49 / 67 |
| Other indicators of Cabinet workload | | | | |
| Cabinet documents lodged | 544 | 491 | 596 | 129 |
| Cabinet minutes recorded | 1,146 | 1,524 | 1,260 | 239 |
| Other meetings | | | | |
| Secretaries' Committee on National Security | 12 | 19 | 18 | 9 |
| Support for the Governor-General in the Federal Executive Council | | | | |
| Meetings held | 22 | 22 | 25 | 8 |
| Papers considered | 484 | 585 | 555 | 151 |
| Availability of papers two working days before meeting | 97.3% | 98.5% | 89.6% | 50.0% |

Note:

¹ The 2010–11 figure includes five Ministry and 14 Parliamentary Business Committee meetings; the 2011–12 figure includes two Ministry and 18 Parliamentary Business Committee meetings; the 2012–13 figure includes two Ministry and 16 Parliamentary Business Committee meetings; the 1 July 2013 to 18 November 2014 figure includes 3 Ministry and 3 Parliamentary Business Committee meetings. All meetings were held in Canberra.