

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: Attendance of National Security Adviser

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 65

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Why was the National Security Adviser absent from the Supplementary Estimates hearing on 18 November 2013?

Did the Secretary approve the National Security Adviser's absence?

Was the travel approved before or after the date of hearing was notified to the department?

Answer:

Dr McCarthy was on official overseas travel at the Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) in Washington, DC.

Yes

The need for Dr McCarthy to travel to AUSMIN was determined prior to the release of the agreed parliamentary calendar and dates for estimates hearings but with an awareness of the potential dates of those hearings. It was considered essential for Dr McCarthy to travel to AUSMIN; Mr Sadleir who was acting Associate Secretary, National Security and International Policy Group during Dr McCarthy's absence on official travel was available to attend the Senate Estimates hearing.