

**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 Trust Fund

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 98

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Have any changes been made to the operation of the Cabinet Trust Fund since 18 September 2013? If so, please provide details.

**Answer:**

The Government is making arrangements to close the Cabinet Trust Fund Account. The Prime Minister has asked the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to substantially vary the catering offered during Cabinet meetings in particular, only basic tea and coffee will be provided, a sandwich lunch if Cabinet meetings go over the luncheon period and dinner only where meetings go into the night.

This will substantially reduce the level of catering provided under the previous government where meals were regularly provided. The Prime Minister has asked the Department to provide meals only where Cabinet meets over meal times consistent with the practice of the broader public service, and indeed business.

The Prime Minister will continue to contribute towards the cost of catering for Cabinet and committee meetings.