

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling - modelling

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 8

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Okay. In particular, I have more confidence than the minister that you were aware of the question asked of her, because I am sure that public servants always watch what their ministers are asked. In relation to the NATSEM modelling to which the minister referred, about which the minister was asked, I understand from your previous answer that you were not asked to look at that modelling to consider whether or not it was accurate.

Ms McDevitt: Not that I am aware of.

Ms Wallace: Certainly not that I am aware of. We may well have, at the officer level, engaged with ABS, but I would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Okay. You have not been provided by Education with anything in relation to that modelling?

Ms McDevitt: To the NATSEM modelling?

Senator WONG: Correct.

Ms McDevitt: No, not to my knowledge.

Senator WONG: Minister, have you been provided with any advice other than via your department in relation to the NATSEM modelling about which Senator Moore asked you?

Senator Cash: I would need to go and have a look at the file and take that on notice for you.

Answer:

The Office for Women did not engage with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on NATSEM modelling.

The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women does not comment on the nature of advice sought or received.