

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet  
**Topic:** Prime Minister's acting chief of staff

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 101

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 4 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Is Mr Turnbull's acting chief of staff, Mr Clarke, (a) seconded to the office from the Communications Department, or (b) appointed under the MOP(S) Act.

If (a), on what date did the secondment start and, if applicable, end.

If (b), on what date did the appointment commence

**Answer:**

Mr Clarke commenced three months' miscellaneous leave with pay from his position as Secretary of the Department of Communications and the Arts in order to establish the Prime Minister's Office on 19 September 2015. Mr Clarke tendered his resignation as Secretary of the Department of Communications and the Arts with effect from the end of 2 December 2015 and was engaged under the MOP(S) Act from 3 December 2015.