

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 statement on 17 October 2015 regarding asylum-seeker

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 103

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

With reference to the statement by Mr Turnbull concerning an asylum-seeker known as Abyan made during his visit to Auckland, New Zealand, on 17 October 2015 – The information I have is that [the] woman in question changed her mind about seeking a termination and that's all I know":

1. Who provided this information to the Prime Minister.
2. Did Mr Turnbull or his office or his department seek to verify the information he received.
3. Is Mr Turnbull satisfied the statement he made is accurate.
4. Which PM&C officials accompanied Mr Turnbull to New Zealand.
5. What information did these officials have about Abyan's case.
6. Where did they get that information.

Answer:

1. We are not aware of where the information used by the Prime Minister was sourced from.
2. We are not aware of whether the Prime Minister or his office sought to verify the information received. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not seek to verify the information.
3. This question should be addressed to the Prime Minister.

4. Ms Paula Ganly, Assistant Secretary, Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch, and Ms Lucienne Manton, Assistant Secretary, International Division accompanied the Prime Minister to New Zealand.

5 & 6. These officials had no information regarding Abyan's case.