

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: Ministry List

Senator: Senator Catryna Bilyk

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Question:

The latest Ministry List indicates that Mr Turnbull has appointed 21 Cabinet Ministers, 9 Junior Ministers and 12 “Assistant Ministers” for a total of 42 Ministers.

Is the Prime Minister in breach of section 4 of the *Ministers of State Act 1952* which provides that a maximum of 30 Ministers can be appointed to the Cabinet?

Answer:

No.

Section 4 of the *Ministers of State Act 1952* provides that the number of Ministers of State must not exceed:

- in the case of those ‘designated, when appointed by the Governor-General, as Parliamentary Secretary’ – 12, and
- in the case of those not so designated – 30.

There are 42 members of the Turnbull Ministry, of which 12 were designated, when appointed by the Governor-General, as Parliamentary Secretary (known as Assistant Ministers).