

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: Timing of the former Prime Minister's resignation

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 97

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Did the department provide any advice to Mr Abbott or his office, or Mr Turnbull or his office, on the timing of Mr Abbott's resignation as Prime Minister. If so, on what date, on what time, in what form, and to whom, was the advice provided.

Did the department provide any advice to Mr Abbott or his office, or Mr Turnbull or his office, on whether it was appropriate for Mr Abbott to maintain the office of Prime Minister during a part-sitting of the House of Representatives even though he was no longer the leader of the Liberal Party and did not command the confidence of the House.

Answer:

Yes. The Department provided oral advice to Mr Turnbull in the early afternoon of 15 September 2015.

No. Mr Abbott's letter to the Governor-General dated 15 September 2015 indicated his "wish to resign from the office of Prime Minister with effect from the appointment of Mr Turnbull to the office".