

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Appointment to the AAT

**Senator:** Wong, Penny

**Question reference number:** 19

**Type of question:** FPA Monday 17 October 2016, page 55

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 2 December 2016

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator WONG: There have been some public questions about an appointment Senator Brandis made to the AAT in relation to a Mr Theo Tavoularis. I would like to know: was there any declaration pursuant to the Cabinet Handbook in relation to that appointment?

Mr Taloni: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Of the 76 appointments to the AAT prior to the parliament being dissolved, were there any declarations as to private interests by Senator Brandis in relation to any of those?

Mr Taloni: Again, I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The confidentiality of Cabinet deliberations, including the declaration of private interests by Ministers, is the foundation for the proper functioning of the Cabinet process. It is therefore not appropriate to reveal what matters may have been considered by the Cabinet.