

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

**Group: 1**

**Program: General**

**Question No. SBE14/159**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.**

With reference to the Minister's remarks to Mr Barry Cassidy that it would be inappropriate for him to continue to serve on the Advisory Board of Old Parliament House because of the Minister's "strong view that it is not appropriate to have anybody currently involved in the political process, whether they be politicians or journalists, sitting on boards such as these", as reported in The Australian on 25 October 2013 ("ABC host Barrie Cassidy bows to Coalition, quitting government post to avoid controversy"):

1. Is it still the policy of the Minister that anybody involved in the political process should not sit on government boards?
2. Why did the Minister appoint political opinionist Janet Albrechtsen to the Council of the National Museum of Australia, in contravention of his own policy?
3. Why is it appropriate for Ms Albrechtsen to serve on the Council of the National Museum of Australia, but not appropriate for Mr Cassidy to serve on the Advisory Board of Old Parliament House?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

1-3. This matter was addressed by the Attorney-General on 18 November 2013 during Supplementary Budget Estimates.