Estimates 2004-05 — Additional Estimates, February 2005

Questions on Notice Index—Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM1	APSC	Carr	F&PA 49, 14/2/05	Senator CARR—Can you name those agencies that do not have specific strategies for the retention of Indigenous employees? Ms Briggs—Can I take that on notice? We would have to go back to the supporting material that agencies gave us in surveys for the State of the service report. I will see if I can get that for you but I would need to take that on notice.	Answer received 1/4/05
PM2	APSC	Carr	F&PA 50, 14/2/05	Senator CARR—Can I have a list of those that have more than 50 people? I understand there might be some tiny organisations—it makes sense—but I would have thought 100 people is not a small agency. Ms Tacy—We will provide that to you.	Answer received 1/4/05
РМЗ	APSC	Carr	F&PA 54, 14/2/05	Senator CARR—Such as the Child Support Agency or DIMIA? There were 20 breaches investigated per 1,000 employees. They had high rates of breaches recorded as well. Were many of those proven? Ms Briggs—I am not sure. Can I take that on notice? Senator CARR—Yes. You can tell the committee how many of those breaches were proved. I would like to know whether or not the commission has any concerns about the patterns that are emerging. I notice that at page 216 you have a table there that says that 348 officers were investigated for breaches of the element that says, 'Commonwealth resources will be used properly,' and that 81 per cent were found in breach. What was the value of the resources lost that produced those sorts of statistics? Ms Briggs—I honestly do not think we could answer that question. But I am more than happy to take the other ones that you have had on notice.	Answer received 1/4/05

QON No.	Department /	Senator	Hansard	Question	Comments
	agency		reference		
PM4	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 61, 14/2/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—I will come to matters of detail now. Essentially the task force dealt with the emergency response—the humanitarian response and Australians who might have been affected. Did you deal with the initial aid response issues as well or was that dealt with separately by the minister? Did you discuss the sort of aid? Mr Metcalfe—I personally was not in the meetings in the first couple of days, but the sense I had was that we had a view from the Prime Minister that our response should be swift and generous. There were initial announcements of humanitarian assistance—essentially from within existing AusAID budgets. I would have to check the records to check the extent that that was discussed within the task force, but it was certainly something that was part of the work that was being done between agencies.	Answer received 16/3/05
PM5	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 62, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—Mr Metcalfe, can you let us know when to your knowledge the Prime Minister became aware of the marriage between the Prince of Wales and Mrs Parker Bowles? Mr Metcalfe—I do not have any information as to when the Prime Minister became aware. I will check and see if there is any information in the department.	Answer received 24/3/05
PM6	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 63, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—Is there any reason why a copy of that email cannot be provided for the committee? Mr Metcalfe—I will have to check. Obviously, we would want to check with the originator. I will take that on notice if I can.	Answer received 24/3/05
PM7	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 63, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—Is the department normally informed of these things? Mr Metcalfe—I have said that we were informed. I think the question you are asking is whether we get prior notice or not. I would have to check as to what the arrangements have been in the past.	Answer received 24/3/05
PM8	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 64, 14/2/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—I did not want to interrupt you, but I wondered what we got him last time. Mr Leverett—I cannot answer that precisely. I believe it was silverware of some sort, but I can take that on notice and let you know. Senator CHRIS EVANS—Yes. What did we get him last time and how much did it cost? Mr Leverett—Yes, we can that on notice.	Answer received 24/3/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM9	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 65, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—Would you mind keeping us updated on what, if any, gift is being provided and what the cost of that might be? Mr Leverett—For Prince Charles? Senator FAULKNER—And Mrs Parker-Bowles. You made the point that you would not just give the gift to Prince Charles. Mr Leverett—That is true. Senator FAULKNER—That is right, isn't it, or have a I missed something? Mr Leverett—No, you are right. Mr Metcalfe—We will provide advice to the committee in due course. Senator FAULKNER—Could you also let the committee know if anyone will be attending the wedding. Mr Metcalfe—We can.	The response to this one is exempt from the set due date.
PM10	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 69, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—So when did the original draft answers go to the Prime Minister's office? Mr Williams—I do not think I have that date with me. Senator FAULKNER—I am sure we can find that out. Mr Williams—I can take that on notice. Senator FAULKNER—I think we can do better than that can't we, Mr Williams? It is so long ago you cannot remember? Mr Williams—As I said, Senator, I do not have that. Senator FAULKNER—Was it last year? Mr Williams—Yes, it was last year. Senator FAULKNER—Was it before the last election, which was in October? Mr Williams—Rather than mislead the committee, I would rather get some advice on that.	Answer received 31/3/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM11	PM&C	Murray	F&PA 70, 14/2/05	Senator MURRAY—Could I ask you on notice: in the event of it turning out not to be weeks—which in my mind is less than a month; that is what I interpret weeks to be—please advise the committee of your estimate of the time it should take. [re. answers to government advertising QON] Mr Taylor—I will do that.	This is not a QON as such but a request to provide information in the event that answers are not received by 14 March 2005—a written explanation must be provided from PM&C stating where outstanding responses are at and the reason for any further delay
PM12	IGIS	Evans	F&PA 93-4, 14/2/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—So did you reinterview the people Mr Blick had interviewed? Mr Carnell—I would have to check on who he interviewed Senator CHRIS EVANS—I am not sure that I was clear about your answer to the earlier question, Mr Carnell. Just before we get too far down the track, I would like to go back to it. You said you interviewed these three people in your initial interview stage, prior to using the powers of your act. I asked you whether you interviewed the other protagonists that Mr Blick had interviewed at that stage. Mr Carnell—I would have to check.	Following consultation with IGIS this question was deemed to be answered at the hearing. 8/3/05
PM13	ONA	Faulkner	F&PA 102, 14/2/05	Senator FAULKNER—What about a number for Iraqi police and military casualties? Mr Varghese—I do not have a number for those. I would have to check to see whether we had any further information on that.	Answer received 23/2/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM14	ONA	Evans	F&PA 104, 14/2/05	Senator CHRIS EVANS—Yes. I am asking you the question: does the US keep a tally of Iraqi military and police casualties and fatalities? Mr Varghese—I would have to take advice on that, but I do not think so. Senator CHRIS EVANS—I find that staggering. Perhaps you could take that on notice because, as I say, I am quite staggered, given that the Australian government, for a start, has invested a lot of resources and personnel into helping train those personnel to take on the security function in Iraq. I thought one of the things we would have been keen to monitor is their success and how well that is going, and one of the measures of that is obviously whether they are living to carry on a function. Mr Varghese—I am happy to take that on advice.	Answer received 23/2/05
PM15	PM&C	Allison	F&PA 111, 14/2/05	Senator ALLISON—What does Indonesia owe Australia? Mr Kemish—I will have to check the figure.	Answer not required. The Senator was referred to DFAT at the hearing. F&PA 112
PM16	ANAO	Sherry	F&PA 116, 14/2/05	Senator SHERRY—Is there a list of that material where there is a question mark? Mr Goodwin—There is certainly a list of what we looked at. I might add that at the moment Defence are doing their own stocktaking, so they will have their own list. Senator SHERRY—Yes; that is for Defence. Can you provide the committee with that list? Mr Winder—Certainly we can. Senator SHERRY—I am not suggesting now. Mr Winder—No. If I may take that on notice— Senator SHERRY—Sure. Mr Winder—It may be preferable for Defence to provide it. Senator SHERRY—As to the list that you have, I am asking you to take on notice— Mr Winder—Yes, I will take it on notice.	Answer received 1/4/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM17	ANAO	Sherry	F&PA 120, 14/2/05	Senator SHERRY—Is that legal advice you referred to available? Mr Boyd—We certainly refer to it in our report as to what it states. Senator SHERRY—Is the full legal advice available though? Mr Boyd—It is certainly something we have in our records, yes. Senator SHERRY—If you could take that on notice, we would appreciate it. Mr Boyd—I should say that it is not advice that we ourselves obtained; it is advice obtained by Finance and others as part of their role. Senator SHERRY—If you could take that on notice, that would be appreciated. Mr Boyd—Sure.	Answer received 1/4/05
PM18	ANAO	Sherry	F&PA 125, 14/2/05	Senator SHERRY—That is something to take up with Finance. You have those figures. Have they been published since you requested them? Mr Boyd—Not to my knowledge. Senator SHERRY—Could you take that on notice and provide us with a copy of the figures. Mr Boyd—Certainly.	Answer received 1/4/05
PM19	ANAO	Sherry	F&PA 125, 14/2/05	Senator SHERRY—Thank you. Page 37 of Audit report No. 15 says that Finance advised ANAO that the first step in calculating surplus revenue involves adding the AOFM's term deposits with the RBA to the balance of the consolidated revenue fund. Is that correct? Mr Boyd—That is the correct approach. That is the approach that was taken. The approach that is taken has evolved over time as further advice has been obtained from Finance by the Australian Government Solicitor in terms of how they should go about this exercise. Senator SHERRY—This means that the total available funds of the Commonwealth as at June 2004 was about \$15.594 billion—that is, \$14.85 billion of the Australian Office of Financial Management plus \$744 million in the CRF, approximately? Mr Boyd—I would have to have a look at the calculations. Senator SHERRY—Can you take that on notice. Mr Boyd—Yes.	Answer received 1/4/05
PM20	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 16/3/05

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM21	ANAO	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 7/4/05
PM22	GG	Carr	Written	Attached	
PM23	APSC	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/4/05
PM24	Ombudsman	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 31/3/05 5/4/05
PM25	IGIS	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 31/3/05
PM26	ONA	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 12/4/05
PM27	NWC	Carr	Written	Attached	
PM28	PM&C	Carr	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/4/05
PM29	NWC	Stephens	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/4/05
PM30	PM&C	Ridgeway	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/4/05
PM31	APSC	Murray	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/4/05
PM32	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 24/3/05
PM33	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 16/3/05
PM34	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 30/3/05
PM35	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 24/3/05
РМ36	ONA	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 19/4/05
PM37	APSC	Crossin	Written	Attached	Transferred from EWR&E Committee 28/2/05 Answer received 1/4/05

QON No.	Department /	Senator	Hansard	Question	Comments
	agency		reference		
PM38	APSC	Crossin	Written	Attached	Transferred from EWR&E Committee 2/3/05 Answer received 1/4/05
PM39	APSC	Crossin	Written	Attached	Transferred from EWR&E Committee 2/3/05 Answer received 1/4/05

Please note that answers are due on 1 April 2005

PM20 to PM27

Please provide a table listing details of all consultancies for the 2003/04 financial year, for the department and all associated agencies within the portfolio. Please include the following:

- The costs for all completed consultancies, both budgeted and actual;
- The costs for ongoing consultancies, both budgeted and for the current financial year;
- The total costs for all consultancies, both the amount expended in the current financial year, and the total budgeted value of all consultancies running in the current financial year;
- The nature and purpose of the consultancy;
- The method by which the contract was let;
- The name and details of the company and/or individual who is carrying out, or carried out, the contract.

PM28

Prime Minster and Cabinet Government Communications Unit

Can the department supply a table detailing every advertising contract entered into by all departments and agencies across the whole of the public service, in 2002/03 and 2003/04, including:

- The total cost, budgeted and actual, of the contract (if the contact is at an end);
- The total budgeted cost, and a breakdown of costs for each financial year (for ongoing contracts);
- The method by which the contract was let;
- The purpose of the contract;
- The name and details of the company and/or individual who is carrying out, or carried out, the contract.

PM29

National Water Commissioners

- 1. Have the seven commissioners been appointed?
- 2. Who are they? Please provide details of their skills and expertise
- 3. What is the term of appointments?
- 4. Which members were nominated by the States and which were appointed by the Commonwealth?
- 5. Has the commission met yet?

The National Water Commission Bill indicated the appointment of approximately 40 – 50 staff.

- 6. What is the recruitment process for these staff?
- 7. How many of these staff have been appointed to date?
- 8. Are these positions on-going? Fixed contract? Or temporary?

PM30

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

(To Dr Peter Shergold)

- 1. How and when did you first become aware that the National Indigenous Times newspaper (NIT) was allegedly in possession of leaked federal government and/or cabinet documents?
- 2. When did you, your office, your department or a person delegated by you first notify the Australian Federal Police about the National Indigenous Times allegedly being in possession of leaked federal government and/or cabinet documents?
- 3. After you, your office, or a person delegated by you notified the AFP about the alleged possession of illegal documents by NIT, what, if any, subsequent conversations and/or dealings did you, your office, or a person delegated by you have with the Australian Federal Police regarding the issue?
- 4. Did you at any time ask, suggest to, or discuss the possibility with the Australian Federal Police of listening devices being activated on phone lines currently being used by the NIT? If so, what were the outcomes of these discussions?
- 5. Are you aware of any listening devices currently activated on any phone lines currently being used by the NIT?
- 6. Are you aware when the AFP investigation into the alleged leaks to the NIT is likely to conclude? If so, when?
- 7. Have you at any stage requested that the AFP extend the investigation into the NIT? If so, why and for how long?
- 8. Has the AFP provided you with any interim reports or advice, written or otherwise, into alleged leaks to the NIT? If so, what is/are the nature of these report/s and/or advice?
- 9. On how many occasions have you or a person delegated by you had discussions with the AFP in relation to the raid on the NIT?
- 10. Since becoming Cabinet Secretary, on how many occasions have you referred to the Australian Federal Police incidences of alleged leaks of government information?
- 11. Since November 11, 2004, how many times have you reported or referred to the Australian Federal Police incidences of alleged leaks of government information?
- 12. Since February 2003, are you aware of any alleged illegal disclosure of government information to persons not authorised to receive that information that has not been referred to the AFP? If so, what incidences are these and why have they not been referred to the AFP?

- 13. Will you be requesting an AFP investigation or at least reporting to the AFP all future leaks of government information as you become aware of them? If not, what would be the defining characteristics of a leak which you will report to the AFP?
- 14. Will you be reporting to the AFP the possible leak of government information to The Australian referred to on the front page of Monday 14 February's Australian of the government's plan to withdraw funding of CDEP places from Indigenous communities?
- 15. Do you recall telling the Select Committee into the Administration of Indigenous Affairs that the percentage of senior Indigenous people in the public service has actually risen in the last few years? Can you repeat that statistic please?
- 16. Can you please provide the actual numbers of Indigenous people in senior public service positions which constitute those percentages?
- 17. Given that you said large numbers of APS 1 & 2 positions no longer exist, and it was those lower ranked positions which Indigenous people were mainly employed in, so that there now needs to be fewer Indigenous people in senior positions to make up a larger percentage of Indigenous APS employees that are in senior positions, do you agree that quoting the percentage increase is very misleading?
- 18. Were you given any direction on how to answer questions relating to the shocking decline in Indigenous workers in the APS? If so, who did that direction come from?
- 19. What steps have you, as the head of the public service, taken to institute across the board cultural change in the public service? That is, to both accommodate Indigenous employees within the mainstream public service, and to better deliver services to Indigenous citizens?
- 20. If there has been cross-cultural training or the like for non-ATSIC/ATSIS public service employees, where has the funding for this training come from?
- 21. If you don't know, would you say it is appropriate that such cross cultural training come out of ATSIC/ATSIS money? Presumably this is training that should be done anyway, is it not?
- 22. You have said in the Senate Select Committee into the Administration of Indigenous Affairs that performance targets in relation to service delivery for Indigenous Australians are already included in Department Secretaries' contracts to help ensure that the public service delivers outcomes for Indigenous people. Could you specify what the performance targets are? How long have these clauses been in Secretaries' contracts?
- 23. Have Secretaries re-signed contracts with such performance targets in them? Or are they only for recently appointed Secretaries?
- 24. What will happen to Secretaries who don't meet those performance measures?
- 25. Will the performances in relation to these measures be published?
- 26. What role did Indigenous organisations play in developing the performance measures for the Secretaries?
- 27. How will evaluations of the Secretaries be conducted?
- 28. What role will Indigenous organisations have in evaluating the performance of the Secretaries?
- 29. What work does your department's Implementation Unit do? When did it start that work?

To the Department of PM & C (whoever can answer them):

- 30. At the moment, the government is using the existing Regional Councils to coordinate much of what is happening at the grass-roots level and to communicate with community organisations and groups. What happens when the Regional Councils are gone who will the government (whichever departments or the ICCs) talk to?
- 31. How will the government know who is a legitimate representative and who is not?
- 32. Will government be able to talk to whoever it wants and thereby pick and chose the Indigenous people who agree with government and want the least?
- 33. How are the changes being communicated to Indigenous communities, especially regional and remote communities?
- 34. Is the little booklet entitled "New Arrangements in Indigenous Affairs" the only written explanation you have provided communities on the changes?
- 35. How many languages has this booklet been published in? What are those languages?
- 36. Can you explain how the flexible pool of Indigenous funding works?
- 37. Are the funds quarantined for the various areas and programs or can you shift them between departments, depriving one program for the sake of another?

PM31

The Public Service Commission

- 1. Does the PSC require independent medical advice to be provided or made available in instances of Commonwealth employees who are whistleblowers?
- 2. If so, is there an official list of the names of government or government-approved medical agencies, medical personnel and psychiatrists to be used?
- 3. Is the PSC advised or does it monitor complaints of maladministration received at the following agencies?
 - Merits Review Protection Agency;
 - Commonwealth Ombudsman;
 - Administrative Appeals Tribunal;
 - Public Service Commissioner:
 - Any other.
- 4. If the PSC is advised of, or does monitor, these matters:
 - a. What percentage or number of those complaints constituting complaints under section 16 protection of whistleblowers of the Public Service Act 1999?
 - b. How many whistleblower cases have there been and how many cases have been resolved in favour of the whistleblower?
 - c. At what level within the organisations are the complaints being made?
 - d. Have there been any successful complaints made against agency heads and/or senior Commonwealth employees?
- 5. Has there been any public or private survey or study done by the Public Service Commission on the efficacy of Commonwealth whistleblower legislation?
- 6. What is the advice provided to staff of Commonwealth agencies who are or may be complaining about lack of Whistleblower protection?
- 7. Has any consideration been given to applying immediate protection to a whistleblower against on-the-job harassment before the matter is investigated or during the process of investigation?
- 8. Is there any monitoring of whistleblowers after the matter is resolved to ensure that there is no ongoing harassment taking place?
- 9. How many Commonwealth whistleblowers have left their place of work within two years of blowing the whistle?
- 10. (a) How many have ended up having COMCARE cases? (b) What has the cost been? (c) How many still remain in treatment after two years?

PM32

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Social Policy Division

- 1. How many staff current work in Social Policy Division? Please also break this number down by level, gender, part-time/full-time status.
- 2. Are there any secondments to Social Policy Division from the other agencies?
- 3. What are those secondees doing in Social Policy Division? What are they working on?
- 4. Are any Social Policy Division staff outposted to the other agencies?
- 5. What are they doing? What is their role?
- 6. Please list all Interdepartmental Committees in which Social Policy Division participates with FACS/Human Services/Centrelink/CSA.
- 7. Please describe the role of these IDCs.

- 8. Did Social Policy Division have a role in determining the revised Departmental arrangements that have applied since the election in respect of FACS/Human Services/DEWR/DEST? What was the nature of that role?
- 9. What did Social Policy Division see as the purpose of making these changes?
- 10. Does the Division have a future role in monitoring/managing the relationship between the agencies involved?
- 11. Was Social Policy Division involved in the development of the families.gov.au website?
- 12. Why was this website established?
- 13. Who determined the website content?
- 14. What has been the cost of setting up the website?
- 15. Who bore the cost?
- 16. Does PM&C have any future role in monitoring/overseeing the website content?
- 17. Was Social Policy Division involved in the development of the new booklet on family assistance?
- 18. Why was it decided that the booklet was necessary?
- 19. Who determined the content?
- 20. What was the cost of the new booklet?
- 21. Who has borne the cost?
- 22. Please outline the extent of Social Policy Division's involvement in the development of the Government's election policies in the FACS portfolio.
- 23. How many staff were involved in this process? What levels of staff were involved in the development of the policies?

PM33

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

- 1. What was the involvement of the Departmentt in the selection of the city to host the 2007 APEC meeting, and whose final decision was it, based on what material?
- 2. Will PM&C been the main agency, as it was for CHOGM Brisbane, and will similar structures be set up (Taskforce etc)?
- 3. Are there yet defined roles for Commonwealth, States etc, and what are those roles?
- 4. How will security issues be dealt with?
- 5. Does the Department have indicative costs yet, lead-up years and for the event itself?

PM34

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

What are current numbers of Departmental Liaison Officers in each Minister's Office, and what is the reason for any changes in those numbers since the last round of Estimates?

PM35

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

- 1. What was PM&C involvement in any or all investigations into the alleged leak of DoFA Cabinet in Confidence briefing material on Work and Family during the election campaign?
- 2. Did they advise on the investigation at the time, what was the nature and extent of that investigation, and what was the result?
- 3. Any other intensive leak investigations in the past 12 months, extent and type, and what was the result of those?
- 4. Does the Howard Government still have a 100% record of unsuccessful leak investigations?
- 5. Has there been any thought given to changing how these investigations are conducted, and if so, to what?
- 6. Who pays for these investigations, and has there been any consideration to introduction of user pays?

PM36

Office of National Assessments

- 1. How many analysts does ONA currently have working on Iraq related issues?
- 2. What are their respective areas of responsibility?
- 3. Has the staff profile in this area changed since the invasion of Iraq?
- 4. If so, how and when?
- 5. How many analysts does ONA currently have working on Weapons of Mass Destruction issues?
- 6. How has the staff profile in this area changed since March 1996?

PM37

APSC

understand a recent report "State of the Service Report 2003 – 04" on the state of the APS shows a considerable decline in both the absolute number and percentage of Indigenous employees in the APS (from 2.5% in 1995, 2.%5 in 2000 and now down to 2.3% in 2004- the peak was 2.7% in 1998/99). Can we take it these figures are accurate?

PM38

APSC

Have you any figures to give a breakdown of Indigenous employment by department and level over the years 1995 to 2004?

PM39

APSC

Do you have any record of how many Indigenous officers left after the closing of ATSIS and transfer of staff to mainstream departments?