

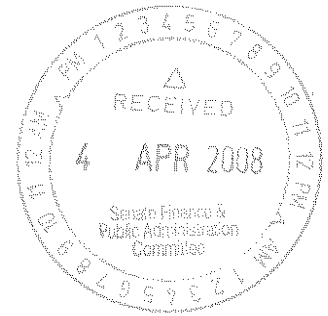
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008



Question: PM57

Outcome 1, Output 4

Topic: Apology letter

Hansard Page: F&PA 124

Senator Abetz asked: Senator KEMP - ...Senator Faulkner, did the Prime Minister approve the wording of the letter that Mr Harris sent to Dr Brendan Nelson?

Senator Faulkner - Senator, you are right that the Prime Minister accepts, and I think certainly everyone around this table would accept, that the behaviour was not appropriate, so I accept the premise of the question that you have just asked. I cannot confirm with you-I simply do not know-whether the Prime Minister saw the letters of apology that his two staff members had written prior to them being communicated to Dr Nelson, but if it would assist you I am happy to take that on notice and see if we can get a response.

Answer: Please refer to the Prime Minister's statement during Question Time in the House of Representatives on 13 February 2008.