

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010-2011

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation
Outcome/Program: 1/1.1
Topic: Australian War Memorial

Senator: Ronaldson

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator RONALDSON—When did the Prime Minister make the announcement?

Mr Martine—I think, from memory, the request was around October. I am not sure of the exact date.

Mr Tune—Late October.

Senator RONALDSON—When was it formally announced?

Mr Tune—Late October.

Senator RONALDSON—Are you sure?

Senator Wong—I think the Prime Minister, from memory—

Mr de Carvalho—The minister made reference to the review in a media interview. I can find the date for that.

Mr Tune—28 October 2010.

Senator RONALDSON—Didn't the Prime Minister announce the review in mid-December?

Mr Tune—We will take that on notice. I do not have that date here in front of me.

Mr de Carvalho—I can find out for you very quickly.

Senator RONALDSON—If you would not mind, please. That would be good. When that review was announced by Minister Snowden, in what context was that given? Did he say that it was in the context of the budget?

Mr Tune—I do not have the statement.

Senator RONALDSON—I will find that statement....

Mr de Carvalho—Senator, the date of the minister's note in reference to this was 28 October. There was an ABC news story entitled 'War Memorial budget review amid staff cuts' on 28 October.

Senator RONALDSON—What were the minister's comments? Was it in the context of it being put off until the budget?

Mr de Carvalho—I am sorry, I do not have a transcript of it.

Mr Tune—We would have to check the transcript.

Answer:

On 28 October 2010, AAP Newswire reported that the Minister for Veterans' Affairs had given an interview to ABC Radio where he indicated that the Prime Minister had requested that a review of the funding of the Australian War Memorial (AWM) be undertaken jointly by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and the Minister for Finance and Deregulation. In that interview, Minister Snowdon indicated that he and Minister Wong would report to Cabinet in the context of the 2011-12 Budget.