

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Australia Day Function - PMO senior staff conversations

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 8

Type of Question: FPA, P62-63, 13 February

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RYAN: Senator Evans, you quoted a number of times the view that the senior press secretary and the communications director worked to establish all of the facts in relation to these allegations. I assume you will have to take this on notice: given that it seems apparent to me that the only conversations that took place were with Mr Hodges, exactly how did they work to establish all the relevant facts? To whom did they speak? Who did they interview? And, if necessary, what records did they access?

Senator Chris Evans: I am happy to take that on notice. I think it is on the public record that Ms Sattler was spoken to? I think that is right, but that is from my memory. I will correct that if that is not right.

Again, it would seem to me that they would probably have spoken to the other staff who were at the event on Australia Day. Those are both logical conclusions I jump to, but I will probably be briefed and get you an answer.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is advised that the Prime Minister's Director of Communications and Senior Press Secretary spoke to relevant staff.