

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: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Poker machine reform - Wilkie agreement - Technical advice

Senator: Senator Abetz

Question reference number: 18

Type of Question: FPA, P71-72, 13 February

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator ABETZ: You would be aware, surely, of the media speculation on 29 January 2012 in a syndicated column by Samantha Maiden which suggested that advice was lodged with a government in April 2011 to the effect that "technical advice we have is that would not be achievable" to quote Ms Macklin. So Ms Macklin seems to know that the government received technical advice in April 2011. I am just wondering when that technical advice may have found its way to the Prime Minister's office, and you cannot tell me.

Mr Ronalds: I will take it on notice. I am happy to do that. We will make the inquiries.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not provide advice to the Prime Minister that the agreement with Mr Wilkie MP could not be fulfilled in accordance with the timelines in the agreement.