

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

**Topic:** Cyber Security Centre

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

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**Type of Question:** Written

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**Question:**

1. Where will the Australian Cyber Security Centre be located? Within which department? And where geographically?
2. The Department of Defence's Cyber Security Operations Centre was only set up in 2010 yet it is already being disbanded, why is this?
3. How are departments involved being instructed to allocate funds to the Australian Cyber Security Centre?
4. Who is likely to head the Australian Cyber Security Centre? Will the position be advertised?
5. Many commentators - both local and international - have spoken of the dangers of China especially when it comes to cyber-security attacks. Will the department be instructed to focus resources on China?

**Answer:**

1. The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) will be located in Canberra, with specific details being finalised. The ACSC will be a fusion centre, incorporating staff from various departments, including the Defence Signals Directorate (DSD), Defence Intelligence Organisation, Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, Computer Emergency Response Team Australia, Australian Federal Police and the Australian Crime Commission.
2. The Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) is not being disbanded. Rather, the ACSC will build on DSD's current capability in the CSOC to include other government entities, industry and international partners.
3. The ACSC will be established from within existing resources.
4. As the ACSC builds on DSD's existing activities in the CSOC and the CSOC has the largest number of staff within the Centre, the initial Head will be a First Assistant Secretary (Cyber and Information Security Division) from DSD.

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5. Australia already works with China on countering common cyber threats, particularly through cooperation between national Computer Emergency Response Teams, and will continue to welcome the opportunity to cooperate with China in establishing a safe, secure, and open internet. The department will not comment on specific operational issues as a matter of principle and long-standing practice.