

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Statement of Ministerial Staff Standards

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 56

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

With reference to the answer to question on notice 81 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates round which advises PM&C provided no advice to the Prime Minister or his office on the Prime Minister's Statement of Ministerial Staff Standards:

Why was PM&C was not consulted?

Who drafted the standards?

Who was consulted on the draft standards?

Have the standards, and their enforcement, been reviewed in light of the conflict of interest matter related to the office of the Assistant Minister for Health?

Have any sanctions been applied under the standards?

Answer:

The Statement of Standards for Ministerial Staff was adapted from the Code of Conduct for Ministerial Staff that existed under the former government.

Ministerial staff are required to comply with the Statement of Standards. The Special Minister of State is responsible for the Statement of Standards for Ministerial Staff.