

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: Machinery of Government changes

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 57

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

With reference to answer to question on notice 118 from the Supplementary Budget Estimates round which advises that as at 31 October 2013 machinery of government changes in this portfolio had cost \$536,000:

- a) Are the machinery changes complete?
- b) What is the final/current cost?
- c) Are officers who have transferred from FaCHSIA being paid less than their PMC counterparts due to a Determination signed by the Minister for Employment, Senator Abetz?
- d) Are officers who have transferred from agencies other than FAHCSIA also subject to a pay differential?

Answer:

- a) The transfer of staff as part of the machinery of government changes is complete. Work is continuing on the transfer of funding from losing agencies and the relocation of staff.
- b) As at 28 February 2014, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) had spent approximately \$1.3 million on machinery of government changes. PM&C has looked to minimise costs by utilising existing departmental capability to support the transfer and by re-using accommodation and information technology services from other agencies where possible.
- c) As a result of the determination signed under Section 24(3), all terms and conditions of employment for transferring staff were preserved. It is difficult to accurately compare conditions of employment, which consist of remuneration and non-remuneration components. For example, former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Affairs employees retain a 37½ hour week whereas the PM&C Certified Agreement requires a 38 hour week.

- d) There are differences in terms and conditions of employment for all agencies that transferred to PM&C.