

**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:** Attendance of staff at Cabinet meetings

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 64

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

- 1) Does the department maintain a record of ministers, officials and staff who attend each Cabinet and Cabinet committee meeting?

Is the Department aware of this statement by the then Opposition Leader published on 31 July 2010 in connection with the attendance of staff at Cabinet meetings under Prime Minister Gillard: "Now that she's established a precedent of talking about what was said in Cabinet and who was there, I think she should come clean and tell us exactly who was at national security committee meetings."

- 2) Is it usual practice under this government for the Prime Minister's chief of staff to attend Cabinet meetings?

**Answer:**

1. Yes.
2. Refer to the response to PM94 from the November 2013 Supplementary Budget Estimates.