

**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:** Governance Committee of Cabinet

**Senator:** Senator the Hon Penny Wong

**Question reference number:** 66

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Does the Governance Committee of Cabinet provide advice and oversight of governance and integrity issues?

What role did the Committee play in relation to breaches of ministerial and ministerial staff standards by the Assistant Minister for Health and her former chief of staff?

**Answer:**

As set out in its terms of reference, the Governance Committee provides advice and oversight of governance and integrity issues, which include, but are not limited to, the Statement of Ministerial Standards and issues arising from the Lobbyist Code.

The confidentiality of Cabinet deliberations is the foundation for the proper functioning of the Cabinet process. It is, therefore, not appropriate to reveal what matters may have been considered by a Cabinet committee.