

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: Multicultural affairs

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 91

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Did PM&C provide any advice to the Prime Minister in connection with the movement of responsibility for multicultural affairs from the Department of Immigration to the Department of Social Services?

Did PM&C brief the Prime Minister on the Building Multicultural Communities Program? If so, on what date/s?

Was PM&C advised of the decision to cut funding from the Building Multicultural Communities Program? If so, when and how?

Did PM&C have any role in the decision to cut funding from the Building Multicultural Communities Program?

What role did the Prime Minister play in the decision to cut funding from the Building Multicultural Communities Program?

Answer:

Consistent with longstanding practice, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) provides a range of advice to the Prime Minister. Consideration of this advice is a matter for the Prime Minister.

PM&C is involved in routine consultations regarding programmes and budget processes with the Department of Finance.

The reduction of funding in the Building Multicultural Communities Programme was a decision of the Government.

The Government committed to examining a range of expenditure. This decision was made through the usual budget processes.