

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Additional Estimates Hearings 2003-2004, 24 & 25 May 2004

**Question: PM4**

**Outcome 4, Output 4.2**

**Topic: Preparation of Advice – Professor Flint**

**Hansard Page/Direct on Notice: F&PA 63**

Senator Faulkner asked: In terms of your knowledge of the Flint matters the only advice sought by the department from outside the department was the advice sought from the AGS. Is that correct?

Ms Belcher – In the preparation of the secretary's advice to the Prime Minister only the AGS advice was sought. That was the only contact made outside the department.

Senator Hill – I think Ms Belcher had better say, 'To her knowledge,' in case the secretary sought other advice of which she is unaware.

Ms Belcher – Yes

Senator Faulkner – How can we establish that?

Senator Hill – We can ask the secretary. Ms Belcher can only answer for what is within her knowledge.

Senator Faulkner – Perhaps we could ask for that to be checked with Dr Shergold and, if he did seek advices from elsewhere, the committee could be informed.

**Answer:** In the preparation of his advice to the Prime Minister, the Secretary sought outside advice from the Australian Government Solicitor only. The Secretary also spoke to Professor Flint.