

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 26 May - 27 May 2008



Question: PM101a

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: 2020 Summit Participants

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: How many delegates ended up being selected to attend the summit?

Answer: The Independent Steering Committee initially selected 887 people to be invited to attend the Summit.

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Question: PM101b

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: List of participants

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: -I understand that the list of 'participants' was published on 28 March, is that correct?

Answer: Yes.

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Question: PM101c

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Participants declared before acceptance

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: According to an article in The Australian (Participants declared before acceptance, The Aus, 15/4/08), the list was published before invitations were issued and confirmations had been received that those selected would indeed attend. Is this report correct?

Answer: A list of Summit invitees was published before invitations were posted.

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Question: PM101d

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Published attendees who didn't attend the summit

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: How many of those published on the list of 'attendees' didn't attend in the end?

Answer: 43 invitees either formally declined or did not respond to their invitation. A further 5 accepted their invitation and registered as a participant, but were subsequently unable to attend.

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Question: PM101e

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: 2020 Summit – gender balance of attendees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked:

- I understand that the gender balance of the attendees was such that 50.6% were women, which is close to the female proportion of the national population which I understand is 50.3% - can you confirm those figures?

Answer: 50.3 per cent of Summit attendees were female.

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Question: PM101f

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Gender balance

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: -Was it a deliberate decision of the steering committee to ensure gender balance?

Answer: Yes.

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Question: PM101g

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Gender Balance

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: -Was the decision taken by the steering committee or was it a Ministerial directive?

Answer: It was a decision taken by the Independent Steering Committee.

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Question: PM101h

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Male and female applicants to be delegates

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: Were either male or female applicants to be delegates excluded by virtue of their gender in order to preserve the gender balance?

Answer: None of the potential Summit participants were excluded from selection by virtue of their gender.

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Question: PM101i

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: 2020 Summit - Delegates

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: How many people applied to be delegates?

Answer: 7,911 applications were received.

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Question: PM101j

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Delegates

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: Of the final number of delegates, how many were invited by the Prime Minister and how many were selected by the steering committee?

Answer: Of the final number of Summit participants who were invited and registered to attend, the Prime Minister, in close consultation with the Summit co-convenor and co-chairs, invited 67 people. The rest of the participants were chosen to attend the Summit by the Steering Committee.

The total of 67 is made up of 14 media competition winners, 12 Youth Summit Ambassadors, 17 Ministers, 8 Premiers and Chief Ministers, 6 Leaders of the Opposition, 4 Party Leaders and 1 representative, the President of the Australian Local Government Association, the Chief Statistician, the Chief of the Defence Force, the AFP Commissioner, and the Governor of Victoria.

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Question: PM101k

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: How many applicants were members of *GetUp*?

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: How many of the total number of applicants were members of *GetUp*?

Answer: The Department does not hold this information, as the nomination process did not ask nominees to detail their membership of any particular organisation.

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Question: PM1011

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: 2020 Summit – Summit Participants

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: Were some summit participants called up at the last minute to replace those unable to make it? If so, how many?

Answer: There were five Summit invitees who registered to attend but withdrew within 24 hours of the Summit commencing. PM&C did not take any action to fill those five places.

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Question: PM101m

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: 2020 Summit – Summit Participants (parliamentary)

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: How many of the participants were current or former members of state, territory and/or federal parliaments?

Answer: The Department did not collect this information from participants as part of the nomination process. However, we are aware that of the Summit participants who were invited and registered to attend, there were 38 current Members of State, Territory and Federal Parliaments. This included 17 Ministers, 6 State and Federal Leaders of the Opposition, 8 Premiers and Chief Ministers, 4 Party Leaders and 3 Parliamentary Secretaries.

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Question: PM101n

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Summit participants

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: -Were any current staff to parliamentarians summit participants?

Answer: The Department is not aware of any Summit participants who are current staff to parliamentarians.

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Question: PM101o

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: 2020 Summit – Rejected Nominees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked:

- **I understand that about 120 nominees for the summit that were rejected by the steering committee were informed of their rejection via an email copied to all of them - with the consequence that their email addresses became shared knowledge - is that correct?**
- **How did that happen?**

Answer: Yes. The email was carbon copied to a number of recipients as a result of an error.

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Question: PM101p

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Rejected nominees informed by email

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: - Is the department at risk of legal action because of this breach of privacy?

Answer: PM&C is not aware of any legal action arising as a result of the unintentional breach of privacy, and the department has apologised to all of the email recipients.

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Question: PM101q

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Rejected Summit Nominees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fielding asked: -I further understand that 3 of the 120 had already received invitation letters to participate - is that correct?

Answer: Yes.

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Question: PM101r

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: Rejected Nominees

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: -So how was it that 3 people were invited and then rejected?

Answer: Due to the nature of the nominations process, individuals could be considered as a result of a self-nomination, or a third-party nomination made by another person.

Of the three invitees:

- One individual had submitted a nomination on behalf of another person, and so was sent an email as a result of this “third-party” nomination being unsuccessful.
- One individual had submitted an incomplete nomination on their own behalf, but had been selected as the result of a valid third-party nomination.
- One individual had provided an update to their nomination after the closing deadline, which could not be accepted.

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Question: PM101s

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: 2020 Summit - 100-word essay submitted by participants

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: I understand that participants had to submit 100 words on an issue on which they had changed their mind in the last 10 years

- How many participants completed this task?

Answer: 612.

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Question: PM101t

Outcome 1, Output 5.7

Topic: How 100-word essay was used in the Summit

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: I understand that participants had to submit 100 words on an issue on which they had changed their mind in the last 10 years

- How was this information used in the summit process?

Answer: This information was visible to other participants on a secure website, and was also made available to facilitators as part of their preparations for the Summit.