

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: PM28

Topic: Tourism Luncheon

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Senator Abetz asked: ...But moving on to something lighter, can you tell us about a tourism luncheon on 19 March 2008? Did the Prime Minister's office execute an edict to ministers that they were not allowed to go to this luncheon unless it was a dry luncheon-as in no alcohol was served? Are you aware of that?

Senator Faulkner-I do not know about the tourism lunch that you are referring to...I have indicated to you that I have not heard of the luncheon that you refer to.

Senator ABETZ-Yes, that is right.

Senator Faulkner-But I did also indicate to you that, in that circumstance, because I actually cannot make any comment about it, I have taken the question on notice.

Senator ABETZ-Thank you.

Answer: Ministers determine their own availability for functions, not the Prime Minister's Office.