

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: PM69

Outcome 1, Output 5.2

Topic: Submissions

Hansard Page: F&PA 92

Senator Ronaldson asked: Can you explain to the committee in relation to the lobbyists code why it is appropriate for you to have the final say as to who is in and who is out?

Answer: The Register of Lobbyists is administered by the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). There is provision in the Lobbying Code of Conduct for the Cabinet Secretary, as the Minister responsible for the Register and the Code, to direct the Secretary not to register a lobbyist or individual (Clause 10.4).

The Lobbying Code of Conduct requires the Cabinet Secretary to advise a lobbyist of his intention to refuse registration or remove the lobbyist from the Register and give the lobbyist an opportunity to state why that decision should not be made. The Cabinet Secretary has stated that he expects that this power will be used in exceptional circumstances only.

The Government considers that it is appropriate that decisions of this nature be made by a Minister.