

**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: PM99a**

**Outcome 1, Output 5.7**

**Topic: 2020 Summit - Submissions deemed offensive or unsuitable for publication**

**Hansard Page: Written Question**

**Senator Fifield asked: I understand that all submissions were to be published, except those that according to the Australia 2020 Web Site, "contain offensive material or which are otherwise unsuitable for publication."**

**- How many submissions were deemed offensive or unsuitable for publication?**

**Answer: 104**

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**Question: PM99b**

**Outcome 1, Output 5.7**

**Topic: 2020 Summit - criteria for determining which public submissions were offensive or unsuitable for publication**

**Hansard Page: Written Question**

**Senator Fifield asked: What criteria made submissions "offensive" or "unsuitable for publication."**

**Answer: Public submissions were not published if they:**

- appeared to promote a specific product or service
- constituted an application to attend the Summit
- contained blank responses, nonsense content, or raised matters not relevant to Summit participants (i.e. general criticism of Summit, criticism of former governments, etc)
- contained gratuitous or offensive language likely to offend the community
- expressed sentiments that were liable to offend or vilify sections of the community
- had been submitted more than once
- were potentially defamatory, or
- significantly exceeded the 500 word limit.

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**Question: PM99c**

**Outcome 1, Output 5.7**

**Topic: 2020 Summit - Who decided whether public submissions were offensive or unsuitable for publication**

**Hansard Page: Written Question**

**Senator Fifield asked: Who decided whether submissions met these criteria? .**

**Answer:** Submissions across each of the ten discussion streams were initially assessed by the following Commonwealth Departments: Treasury, DEEWR, DEWHA, DAFF, Health and Ageing, FaHCSIA, Attorney-General's and DFAT. Officers from these eight departments provided advice about whether submissions were suitable for publication, although the final decisions were made by officers of PM&C.

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**Question: PM99d**

**Outcome 1, Output 5.7**

**Topic: 2020 Summit - list of submissions not published**

**Hansard Page: Written Question**

**Senator Fifield asked: Can a list of the submissions refused publication be provided along with the reasons why they were classed as such?**

**Answer:** A total of 104 submissions were either fully or partially excluded from publication for the following reasons:

- Promoting a specific product or service (18%).
- Expression of interest in attending the Summit (7%).
- Gratuitous or offensive language likely to offend the community (10%).
- Blank responses, nonsense content, or raised matters not relevant to Summit participants (22%).
- Expressed sentiments liable to offend or vilify sectors of the community (33%).
- Duplicate submission / or not published at the request of the author (7%).
- Potentially defamatory (2%).
- Significantly exceeded the word limit for submissions (1%).