

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2009

Question: PM24

Outcome 1, Output 5

Topic: Community Cabinet - engagement with local members

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 25 May pp88-89

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

Number of pages: 1

Senator RONALDSON-Mr Mrdak, you will provide me with the full details of the level of engagement with the local members in relation to the electorates where those community cabinets have been held? You will provide me with information in relation to anyone within those electorates who has been contacted in relation to arrangements for the visit by the Prime Minister's office?

Answer: Shortly after the locality of a meeting is advised, PM&C's Community Cabinet Secretariat meets with the office of the Government's local representative – either the local member or the duty senator for the electorate – to advise of the forthcoming meeting. The Secretariat also seeks information about issues of particularly local relevance or importance in the community in order to provide general briefing about the locality to the Cabinet. The meeting takes place either in Canberra or as part of the Secretariat's visit to the locality to assess possible venues.

Where the local member is not part of the Government, the Deputy Secretary Governance of PM&C writes to them advising of the meeting and offering a point of contact to facilitate their attendance. That letter is both faxed and posted on the day that advertising for the meeting first appears. If there is no response after a couple of days, a Secretariat member will contact the member's office to confirm that the letter has been received.

The department is not in a position to answer in relation to any contacts undertaken by the Prime Minister's Office.