

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 2, Program 2.3

Topic: Consultation during Hawke report

Question reference number: F123

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 25, 17 June 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Kroger asked:

So do you think that he [Dr Hawke] had support given to organise appointments with secretaries of departments and other people he consulted in ascertaining what ended up going into his recommendations of that report?

(a) Ms Mason—I really do not know, Senator, but we can take that on notice and make inquiries.

(b) Senator KROGER—If you could take that on notice that would be good. I would have thought, whichever department, there would have been a record of appointments that had been made for him in terms of his consultations. I would be interested in you taking that on notice to get us some advice in relation to that.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has advised that:

- a) Dr Hawke was assisted by the secretariat in organising appointments for the conduct of the review. Meetings were held between 8 and 25 February 2010.
- b) As the Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig indicated to the Committee on 17 June 2010, Dr Hawke met with a range of people including the Auditor-General, 16 secretaries of departments, the Second Commissioner of Taxation, Senator Ludwig, the Minister for Defence and former Special Minister of State, Senator the Hon John Faulkner, and the Chair of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, Ms Sharon Grierson.