

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 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM41

Topic: Speechwriters

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Senator ABETZ-I did ask that and you are quite right. So let us start with the Prime Minister's personal office. How many speechwriters are there?

Ms Beauchamp-As I indicated, I would have to take it on notice. I am not sure how many officers are dedicated speechwriters. However, I understand that some of the advisers do undertake speech-writing functions.

...

Senator ABETZ-Also, just in case people want to get a bit cute-it may be that they are not fully dedicated to speech writing because they might make a cup of tea for the Prime Minister from time to time-if their duties include speech writing, amongst other things. I just want to completely define that. So you will take that on notice, Minister, for the Prime Minister's personal office?

Senator Ludwig-Yes. I have indicated I will see what I can find.

Answer: I am advised that in the Office of the former Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, no staff were appointed with the sole duty of speechwriting. A small number of staff undertook duties relating to the former Prime Minister's speeches and one staff member undertook speechwriting as a significant part of his role.