

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: PM81

Topic: Signing of Official Documents

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 3

A piece in the SMH (21/01/2010) titled 'Julia Gillard should be Treasurer' said that 'Officials in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet have been known to wait until the Prime Minister is out of the country to get things signed off by the acting Prime Minister.' Does DPMC keep a record of the documents that the Prime Minister or Acting Prime Minister signs?

- a) Can DPMC provide the dates when Julia Gillard was acting Prime Minister?**
- b) Can DPMC provide the dates when another Minister was acting Prime Minister?**
- c) In total, how many days has Julia Gillard been Acting Prime Minister?**
- d) In total, how many documents has Julia Gillard signed as Acting Prime Minister?**
- e) In total, how many documents has Kevin Rudd signed as Acting Prime Minister?**

Answer: Yes, as noted in the answer to PM80a-e for the 2010 Additional Estimates, PM&C tracks documents that the Prime Minister or Acting Prime Minister has signed. It should be noted that documents sent to the Prime Minister and Acting Prime Minister for signing have been forwarded in accordance with longstanding practice.

For the period 3 December 2007 to 24 June 2010:

- a) the Hon Julia Gillard MP was Acting Prime Minister on 28 occasions, as detailed in the table below;

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- b) Senator the Hon Chris Evans was Acting Prime Minister on one occasion, as detailed in the table below;
- c) the Hon Julia Gillard MP was Acting Prime Minister for a total of 183 days;
- d) the Hon Julia Gillard MP signed 248 documents during the periods she was Acting Prime Minister; and
- e) the Hon Kevin Rudd MP signed a total of 3245 documents.

The documents signed include ministerial correspondence and briefs but not meeting briefs, messages, speeches, children's correspondence, invitations and congratulatory letters.

Acting Prime Minister Arrangements: 3 December 2007 to 24 June 2010

Start	End	Acting
11/12/2007	14/12/2007	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
20/12/2007	24/12/2007	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
2/01/2008	13/01/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
15/02/2008	15/02/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
6/03/2008	8/03/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
27/03/2008	13/04/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
8/06/2008	14/06/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP – 8/6 to 12/6; Senator the Hon Chris Evans – 13/6 to 14/6
8/07/2008	11/07/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
7/08/2008	12/08/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
18/08/2008	21/08/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
22/09/2008	27/09/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
13/11/2008	18/11/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
20/11/2008	26/11/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
10/12/2008	10/12/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
16/12/2008	19/12/2008	the Hon Julia Gillard MP

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Start	End	Acting
25/12/2008	18/01/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
27/01/2009	28/01/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
23/03/2009	4/04/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
11/04/2009	11/04/2009 *	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
29/05/2009	30/05/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
6/07/2009	12/07/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
19/09/2009	27/09/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
19/10/2009	21/10/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
24/10/2009	26/10/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
10/11/2009	16/11/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
26/11/2009	3/12/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
14/12/2009	20/12/2009	the Hon Julia Gillard MP
6/01/2010	15/01/2010	the Hon Julia Gillard MP

* Prime Minister Rudd's trip to Thailand - recalled mid-flight due to civil unrest in Thailand.