

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: PM96

Topic: International Division- Prime Minister and Cabinet

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

- a) What are the primary responsibilities of the International Division of Prime Minister and Cabinet?**
- b) Have any of these areas been the previous responsibility of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?**
- c) Does the International Division have links to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade? What are those links?**
- d) What is the structure of the International Division?**
- e) How many staff are employed in the International Division?**
- f) What is the gender breakdown of the staff in the International Division?**
- g) How many of the staff employed in the international division were previously employed by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?**

Answer:

a) International Division's principal function is to provide, in consultation with other relevant agencies, high-quality policy advice, briefing and support to the Prime Minister on international affairs. This includes Australia's foreign policy, trade, aid and treaty matters and priorities, including bilateral relations, relationships with regional and international organisations, free trade negotiations and whole-of-government priorities for the overseas aid program.

b) No.

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c) International Division has a close working relationship with DFAT, which includes regular consultation across the breadth of foreign affairs and trade policy areas.

d) International Division is led by a First Assistant Secretary and consists of three groups: the Pacific, Rest of the World and Multilateral Branch (headed by an Assistant Secretary); the Asia, Americas and Trade Branch (headed by an Assistant Secretary); and the International Strategy Unit (headed by a Director).

e) At 15 June 2010, International Division had 28 positions, of which 25 were filled and three were vacant *[note: this does not include the two graduates in the division]*.

f) At 15 June 2010, of the 25 filled positions, 13 were men and 12 were women.

g) At 15 June 2010, seven staff were non-ongoing PM&C employees on transfer from DFAT; three staff were permanent PM&C employees who have previously worked at DFAT.