

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Budget forecasting

Senator: Senator Sinodinos

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Question:

Senator SINODINOS: In other words, it was not a whole-of-government exercise and it was not requested by the Prime Minister.

Dr de Brouwer: Not that we are aware of. The Treasury has conducted a number of these reviews over the years. Dr Parkinson spoke about this. I think this is the third one that has been done while he has been involved in macroeconomics within the Treasury. I thought it was a Treasury-initiated review, but we will come back and confirm that.

Answer:

The Review was not initiated as a result of a request from the then Prime Minister.

The Review was initiated by the Secretary of the Treasury, Dr Martin Parkinson, and was undertaken by a team in the Treasury, overseen by an independent external Reference Group.