

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: PM&C COAG funding

Senator: Senator Payne

Question reference number: 30

Type of Question: FPA, Monday 27 May 2013, Page 94

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator PAYNE: Unless, Mr Hazlehurst, I assume, there is a project of significance involved. For example, I heard officers speaking earlier with Senator Mason at some length about aspects of the Gonski process. Would you be keeping some sort of record in relation to allocation of resources and activities and functions undertaken by parts of PM&C that go to that and the COAG aspects thereof?

Mr Hazlehurst: I believe that we would be able to identify the resourcing that goes to those activities as a whole. Again there would be a question of the distinction that would need to be drawn. What proportion of the activity that is associated, for example, with schools reform would you say was COAG related as opposed to schools reform related?

Senator PAYNE: I understand.

Mr Hazlehurst: But we can see what we can do.

Senator PAYNE: Similarly for schools reform related to the Gonski process and also for the NDIS process. They are the two largest projects that have been identified in most recent discussions.

Mr Hazlehurst: We will see what we can do.

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

Answer:

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) is not able to meaningfully estimate or distinguish the proportion of activity that its staff, working on schools and the National Disability Insurance Scheme reforms, have spent on supporting the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) processes.

The COAG and SOM support function is the primary responsibility of the Commonwealth-State Relations Branch in PM&C which has a staffing establishment of 9.9 ASL.