

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: Carers' room

Senator: Senator Ryan

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Question:

Senator RYAN: ...I will turn now to a departmental administrative issue. I am looking at the answer to question 61, which was a question I asked about amenities to staff. The department answered: "The following amenities are provided for PM&C staff" and amongst various bullet points it separately listed a carers' room and a reflection room. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet annual report for 2011-12 refers, on page 80, to an onsite carers' and reflection room. I am just wondering: are they the same facility, or are they separate rooms?

Ms Leon: I have not ever availed myself of the carers' room or the reflection room, so I might need to seek some advice from the officers who are here.

Senator RYAN: I am just wondering if they are the same room or separate rooms. Different documents imply different things.

Ms Leon: My experience of being with small children is that there is little time for reflection!

Senator RYAN: I am learning that myself!

Ms Leon: So it may be that they are separate rooms, but I will find out from officers who are present and get back to you within the session.

Answer:

The carers' room and the reflection room at One National Circuit are the same facility. If there are competing requests for use of the room alternative options are available to accommodate our employees.