

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2009

Question: PM59

Topic: Community Cabinet - information provided to members of parliament and senators

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 19 October p92

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of pages: 2

Ms Beauchamp-When the decision is made where the community cabinet will be, the information will be available from the website. For local residents in that particular area, a small notice will be put in one of the local papers.

Senator BERNARDI-But what about the information provided to members of parliament and senators? Is there any formal notification process?

Ms Beauchamp-I will have to take that on notice.

Answer: As advised in the Department's response to Senator Ronaldson's Question on Notice (PM24) at the Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2009, PM&C's Community Cabinet Secretariat meets with the office of the Government's local representative – either the local member or the duty senator for the electorate – shortly after the locality of a meeting is advised, to inform them of the forthcoming meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to obtain assistance from the Government's local representative to support the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Community Cabinet Secretariat with organising the event.

Where the local member is not part of the Government, the Deputy Secretary Governance of PM&C writes to them to advise of the meeting and offer a point of contact to facilitate their attendance. That letter is both faxed and posted on the day that advertising for the meeting first appears. If there is no response after a couple of days, a Secretariat member will contact the member's office to confirm that the letter has been received.

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Following Senator Ludwig's commitment of 20 October 2009, non-government Senators will be notified of Community Cabinet meetings to be held in their respective state or territory. This is in addition to current notification being given by Community Cabinet Secretariat to the relevant non-government members.