

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: PM64

Topic: Notification of community cabinet meetings

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 19 October p95

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Senator RYAN- At whose request was the department instructed to notify Labor Party duty senators but no other senators of community cabinet meetings and when was that advice provided or that request or directive made?

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

Answer:

As part of the planning process for a Community Cabinet meeting, shortly after the locality of a meeting is advised, 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 – to advise of the forthcoming meeting.

The Government's local representative then assists the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Community Cabinet Secretariat with organising the event.

The Department, in consultation with the PMO, determined to use this approach from the Campbelltown meeting (February 2009) which, aside from the inaugural meeting at Canning Vale, WA (January 2008), was the first meeting not located in a government held electorate.

Further to that Senator Ludwig will also advise non-government Senators about Community Cabinet meetings in their respective states. This is in addition to current notification being given by Community Cabinet Secretariat to the relevant non-government member.