

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Asian century white paper - Ken Henry NAB appointment

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 20

Type of Question: F&PA, p 75, 17 October

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RYAN: Did that consultation involve any discussion or the seeking of advice about the appointment of Dr Henry and the potential conflict given the wide scope of this project with his role now as a board member of the National Australia Bank?

Dr de Brouwer: My understanding is that the discussions included reference to Dr Henry leading the task force. I am not aware of any discussion around a conflict of interest as you suggest. I will take that question on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) consulted the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in relation to the White Paper. The consultation did not cover any potential conflict of interest matters relating to Dr Henry. Arrangements for managing any potential conflict of interest matters were put in place by PM&C at the time of Dr Henry's appointment.