

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: Special Adviser to the Prime Minister and White Paper project

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 68

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. On which occasions has Dr Henry met with the Prime Minister since his appointment?
2. How often will he meet with the Prime Minister during the White Paper project?
3. Did the proposal to appoint Dr Henry originate with the Prime Minister, her office or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet?
4. Did the proposal to appoint Dr Henry under section 67 of the Constitution originate with the Prime Minister, her office or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet?
5. Does the method of appointment (ie the use of section 67) have any impact on the ability of Estimates hearings to call Dr Henry as a witness? Or as a witness before proceedings of other Parliamentary committees?
6. Was any advice sought on whether this or other modes of appointment would have an impact on Dr Henry's ability to be called as a witness before Estimates hearings or other Parliamentary committees?
7. What was the nature of such advice?
8. Is Dr Henry provided with any administrative or secretarial support in his capacity as a special adviser to the Prime Minister? Where is this support provided from?
9. Where did the proposal for Dr Henry to lead the White Paper project "Australia in the Asian Century" originate, with the Prime Minister, her office or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet?

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Answer:

1. Dr Henry met with the Prime Minister, along with the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), on 26 September 2011.
2. Dr Henry will meet with the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's office as necessary during the development of the *White Paper on Australia in the Asian Century*.
3. The Prime Minister recommended the appointment of Dr Henry to the Governor-General, following advice from the then Secretary of PM&C.
4. The proposal to appoint Dr Henry under section 67 of the Constitution originated in PM&C.
5. Refer to PM7
6. No.
7. N/A
8. Dr Henry is supported by the task force established within PM&C to assist in the preparation of the White Paper.
9. The Prime Minister tasked Dr Henry to lead the *White Paper on Australia in the Asian Century*, following advice from PM&C.