

# **Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

#### **Question: 1**

#### **Topic: Provide Opening Statement**

#### **Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 3**

**Thank you, Ms Beauchamp. Would you care to table your opening statement for the committee?**

#### **Answer:**

I thought it might be useful for the committee to understand the role of the Office of the Coordinator-General and, in particular, where we fit within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been called separately, but I wanted to clarify that I am actually the Deputy Secretary, Governance in the Department. The Office of the Coordinator-General is a division within the department. I will explain the governance arrangements and the roles and responsibilities, because they are germane to some of the questions and clarifications that the committee may be seeking.

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan on 3 February 2009, the Prime Minister, premiers, chief ministers and the president of the Local Government Association together with Commonwealth, state and territory treasurers, were all involved in a special Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 5 February 2009. It was at this meeting that it was decided to introduce new implementation and monitoring arrangements for the Nation Building and Jobs Plan. A significant aspect of those arrangements was to maximise the timely and effective delivery of the stimulus projects.

COAG resolved to introduce new implementation and monitoring arrangements, which included the establishment of an oversight group involving centralised Coordinators-General. It also resolved to establish line department coordinators at the Commonwealth and state levels. These arrangements were formalised in the Nation Building and Jobs Plan National Partnership Agreement.

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Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

The role of the Commonwealth Coordinator-General, with the cooperation and assistance of State and Territory Coordinators-General is to:

- Ensure programs being implemented meet targets as outlined in the National Partnership Agreement;
- Monitor expenditure and roll-out of deliverables;
- Work with states and territories to solve implementation problems that arise in the delivery against COAG milestones; and
- Report to COAG and ministers on these issues.

The Office of the Coordinator-General was established within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in February 2009 following the agreement from the COAG meeting. For clarification, in terms of implementing the programs, it was very clear both in the COAG communiqué from that meeting and in the subsequent budget papers around the Nation Building and Jobs Plan as well as the Economic Stimulus Plan that line agencies have responsibility for program design and delivery and received funding to undertake that role. The line agencies report to individual ministers and liaise with the Office of the Coordinator-General regarding implementation and progress against milestones.

The Office of the Coordinator-General has worked with the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in the rollout of the Home Insulation Program, including ensuring that the objectives agreed at the COAG meeting on 5 February 2009 were being met and supported. That clarification is very important in understanding the role of the Commonwealth, the role of the states and territories and the role of the line agencies in the governance arrangements that were put in place.

COAG endorsed the Energy Efficient Homes Package to modernise Australian homes, resulting in the plan to install ceiling insulation in up to an additional 2.7 million uninsulated Australian homes. To complement this program, it was also agreed that the States would maintain existing energy efficiency funding levels, and re-direct state funding for other energy efficiency programs such as insulation programs to home energy advice programs, particularly for the most disadvantaged households. Advice programs, such as home energy audits, were to help households to maximise the benefits of their new insulation and further reduce their energy costs.

States additionally agreed to audit the energy efficiency of their existing public housing stocks, and consider implementing a program for cost-effective upgrades.

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It was further agreed to examine and resolve additional measures that were to be drawn from the report of the Energy Efficiency Sub-Group of the COAG Working Group on Climate Change and Water to build on the Energy Efficiency Homes package and further improve the energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings across Australia:

- significantly increase energy efficiency requirements for all classes of commercial buildings in the Building Code of Australia from 2010;
- ensure greater consistency in the application of building standards across all States;
- phase-in mandatory disclosure of the energy efficiency of commercial buildings and tenancies from December 2009;
- increase energy efficiency requirements for new residential buildings to six stars, or equivalent, nationally by 2010; and
- introduce mandatory disclosure of residential building energy, greenhouse and water performance at the time of sale or lease by 2010.

The use of the Commonwealth's on-line portal was also agreed as a single point of inquiry for all energy efficiency programs for households and businesses, and that a key part of the COAG National Energy Efficiency Strategy be a commitment from Commonwealth and State governments to improve the energy efficiency of their own operations. States also re-committed to expediting the national roll-out of electricity smart meters, agreed by COAG in April 2007.

**Question: 2**

**Topic: Reports to Cabinet**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**I ask the office on notice to provide as many as those documents as you are able and then to indicate which you are unable to provide and on what basis.**

**Answer:**

The Department provided briefings and papers for Cabinet Committee meetings on a number of occasions. Copies of these briefings and papers are not provided.

The Department provided four briefings to the Prime Minister between August 2009 and March 2010 concerning the Home Insulation Program. Those briefings referred to and were about the deliberations of Cabinet concerning changes to the Home Insulation Program; therefore copies of these briefings are not provided.

Briefing papers were prepared for the Prime Minister about the overall Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan (the Plan) for Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meetings in April 2009, July 2009 and December 2009. These papers were about the deliberations of COAG and therefore copies of these briefings are not provided.

In response to correspondence from the families of two deceased insulation workers, the Department prepared two briefings and associated draft responses for the Prime Minister in February and March 2010. Copies of these briefings and letters are not provided, as their disclosure may unreasonably breach the privacy of individuals.

The Department provided reports to Minister Arbib on overall progress of the Plan between October 2009 and February 2010. Relevant pages of reports that contain information about the Energy Efficient Homes Package, including the Home Insulation Program are attached.

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



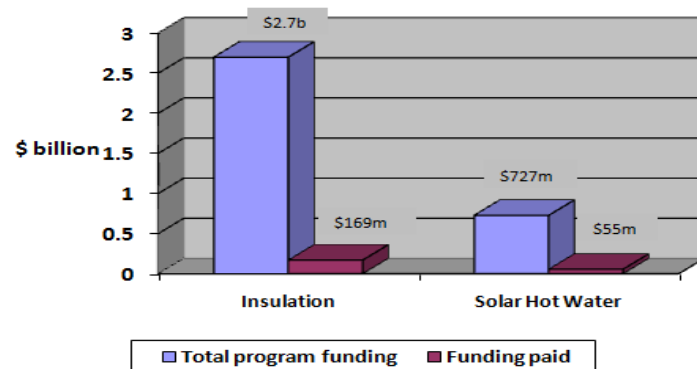
## Nation Building

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### ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

MONTHLY REPORT  
TO 31 JULY 2009

Achievements to end July 2009



#### Highlights and Potential Issues:

- The takeup of both of these programs is tracking below expected expenditure.
- As at 31 July 2009, the majority of funding was paid against claims from NSW (43% for insulation and 67% for solar hot water).

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



## Nation Building

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### ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

MONTHLY REPORT  
TO 31 JULY 2009

**Table 18: State and Territory Breakdown of Energy Efficient Homes measures at 31 July**

	Insulation			Solar Hot Water Rebate		
	Applications received	Funding paid	% of total funding paid	Applications received	Funding Paid	% of total funding paid
NSW	58076	\$73,286,994	43%	37728	\$36,640,215	67%
VIC	11525	\$14,617,123	9%	2560	\$2,486,189	5%
QLD	50713	\$63,069,433	37%	9902	\$9,616,502	17%
WA	9164	\$11,328,364	7%	1878	\$1,823,853	3%
SA	3114	\$3,711,065	2%	3162	\$3,070,832	6%
TAS	2098	\$2,711,798	2%	948	\$920,667	2%
ACT	452	\$574,163	0.3%	425	\$412,746	1%
NT	120	\$146,918	0.01%	132	\$128,194	0.2%
	135,262	\$169,445,858		56735	\$55,099,200	

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



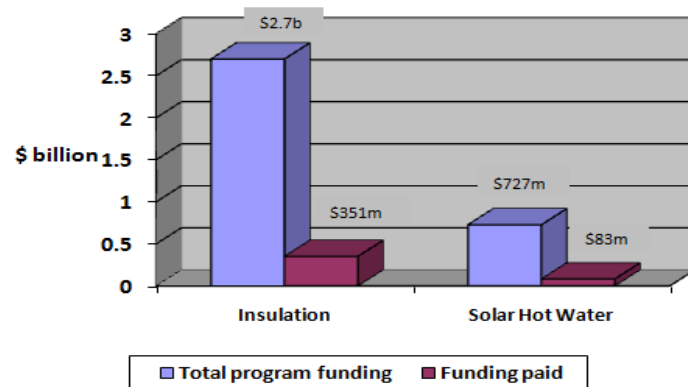
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### ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

MONTHLY REPORT  
TO 31 AUGUST 2009

Achievements to 31 August 2009



#### Highlights and Potential Issues:

- The takeup of both of these programs is tracking below expected expenditure.
- As at 31 August 2009, the majority of funding for insulation was paid against claims from NSW (43%) and Victoria (27%).
- End August jurisdiction breakdowns are not yet available for solar hot water.

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



#### ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

**MONTHLY REPORT  
TO 31 AUGUST 2009**

**Table 18: State and Territory Breakdown of Energy Efficient Homes measures at 31 August 2009**

*Solar Hot Water jurisdiction breakdowns for 31 August 2009 are not yet available.*

	Insulation			Solar Hot Water Rebate		
	Applications received	Funding paid	% of total funding paid	Applications received	Funding Paid	% of total funding paid
NSW	105114	\$152.4 million	43%	n/a	n/a	n/a
VIC	64767	\$93.7 million	27%	n/a	n/a	n/a
QLD	49040	\$68.3 million	20%	n/a	n/a	n/a
WA	8614	\$11.9 million	3%	n/a	n/a	n/a
SA	12749	\$18.2 million	5%	n/a	n/a	n/a
TAS	3430	\$4.9 million	1%	n/a	n/a	n/a
ACT	816	\$1.2 million	0.3%	n/a	n/a	n/a
NT	506	\$454,000	0.1%	n/a	n/a	n/a
	244,836	\$351 million		51,700	\$82.7 million	

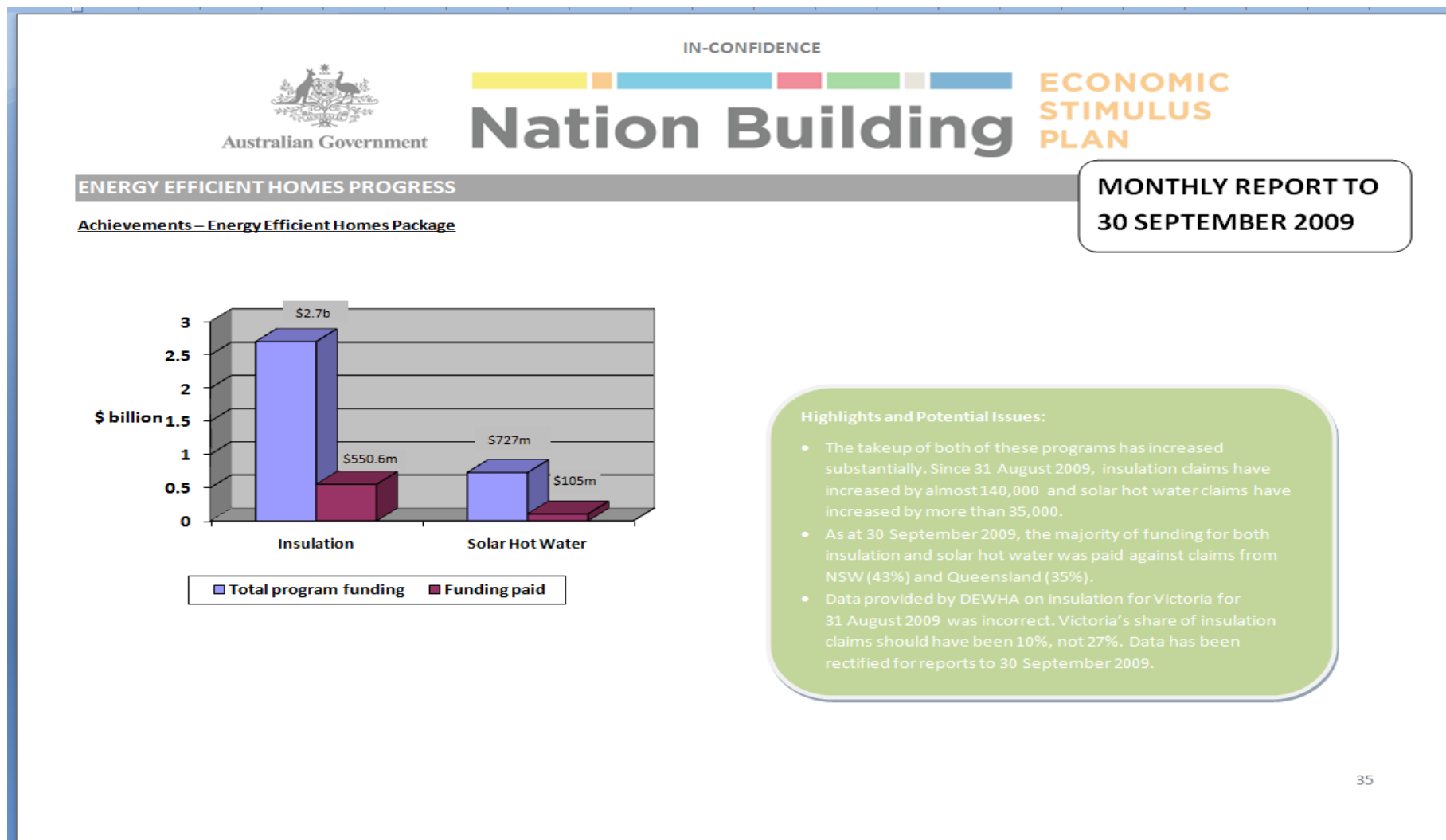
*Solar Hot Water jurisdiction breakdowns for 31 August 2009 are not yet available.*

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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## ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

MONTHLY REPORT TO  
30 SEPTEMBER 2009

**Table 18: State and Territory Breakdown of Energy Efficient Homes package**

	Insulation			Solar Hot Water Rebate		
	Claims received	Total value of claims	% of total funding paid	Applications received	Funding Paid	% of total funding paid
NSW	164,621	\$238.9 million	43%	57,961	\$69 million	66%
VIC	44,181	\$63.2 million	12%	4,570	\$5.7 million	5%
QLD	136,121	\$194 million	35%	15,484	\$18.5 million	18%
WA	11,737	\$16.4 million	3%	2,880	\$3.4 million	3%
SA	19,864	\$28.4 million	5%	4,739	\$5.6 million	5%
TAS	4,895	\$7 million	1.3%	1,439	\$1.7 million	1.6%
ACT	1,232	\$1.8 million	0.3%	621	\$726,000	0.7%
NT	544	\$818,000	0.1%	211	\$255,000	0.2%
TOTAL	383,195	\$550.6 million	100%	87,905	\$105 million	100%

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



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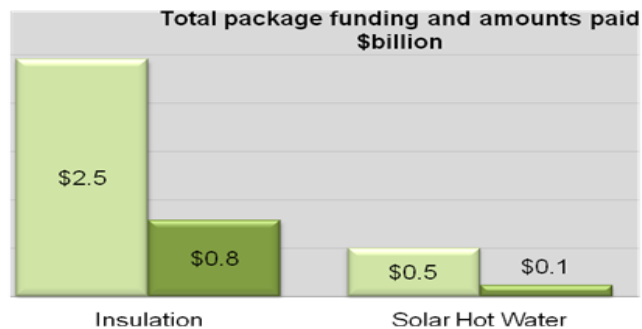
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#### ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

##### Achievements – Energy Efficient Homes Package

MONTHLY REPORT TO  
31 OCTOBER 2009



#### Highlights and Potential Issues:

- The take up of home insulation has increased substantially with a further 160,000 claims received in October 2009.
- The majority of funding for insulation has been paid against claims from NSW (43%) and Queensland (34%) and for solar hot water claims primarily claims from NSW (66%).
- The data for Solar Hot Water – Applications Received shows a significant reduction on previous months' figures. DEWHA advise that early data was inflated due to double counting.
- Complaint levels have been low, tracking at less than 0.5%
- At end October around 9,000 businesses are registered with over 7,000 actively submitting claims.
- On 2 November 2009 changes to the insulation program were announced reducing the rebate cap to \$1,200 and issuing revised guidelines which provide a greater focus on safety and compliance.

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

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## ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

MONTHLY REPORT TO  
31 OCTOBER 2009

Table 17: State and Territory Breakdown of Energy Efficient Homes package

	Insulation			Solar Hot Water Rebate		
	Claims received	Total value of claims	% of total funding paid	Applications received	Funding Paid	% of total funding paid
		\$million			\$million	
NSW	232,556	\$339.2	43%	48,252	\$77.2	66%
VIC	70,612	\$102.8	13%	3,831	\$6.1	5%
QLD	188,117	\$270.7	34%	12,901	\$20.6	18%
WA	12,144	\$17.4	2%	3,899	\$6.2	5%
SA	31,453	\$45.3	6%	2,216	\$3.5	3%
TAS	6,854	\$9.9	1%	1,140	\$1.8	2%
ACT	1,569	\$2.3	0%	558	\$0.9	1%
NT	783	\$1.2	0%	183	\$0.3	0%
TOTAL	544,088	\$788.7	100%	72,980	\$116.8	100%

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

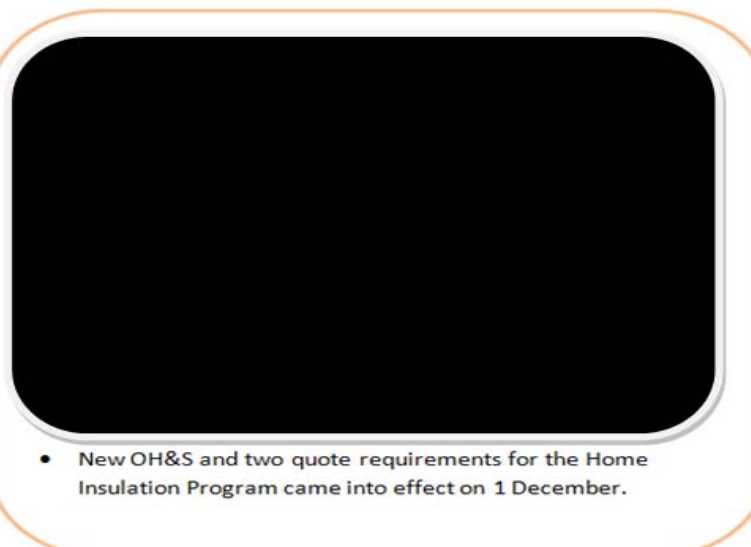
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**MONTHLY REPORT TO  
30 NOVEMBER 2009**



- New OH&S and two quote requirements for the Home Insulation Program came into effect on 1 December.

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



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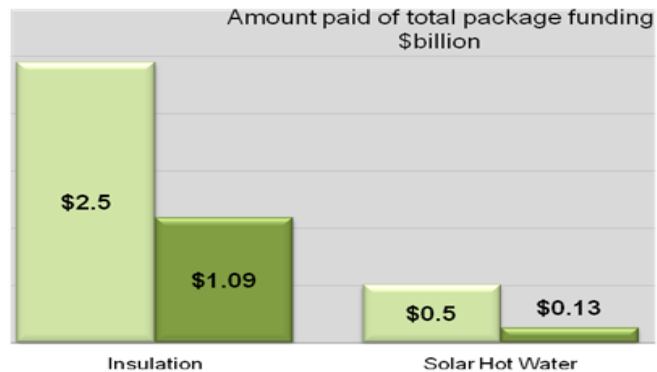
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### ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

MONTHLY REPORT TO  
30 NOVEMBER 2009

#### Achievements – Energy Efficient Homes Package



#### Highlights and Potential Issues:

- The take up of home insulation has increased further with over 200,000 claims received in November 2009 (this is expected to reduce into January with the new measures coming into effect on 1 December 2009)
- The majority of funding for insulation has been paid against claims from NSW (43%) and Queensland (32%) and claims for solar hot water primarily coming from NSW (66%).
- 9,820 installers are registered, as at 26 November 09.
- The high take-up rate of the insulation program indicates that funding will be exhausted earlier than anticipated – it is too early to gauge the impact on demand that the two quote requirement and reduced rebate will have.
- 86% of Solar Hot Water applications received has been paid and applications rates remain high.

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



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## ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

**MONTHLY REPORT TO  
30 NOVEMBER 2009**

**Table 19: State and Territory Breakdown of Energy Efficient Homes package**


	Insulation			Solar Hot Water Rebate		
	Claims received	Total value of claims	% of total funding paid	Applications received	Funding Paid	% of total funding paid
		\$million			\$million	
NSW	333,661	\$469.2	43%	55,566	\$88.3	66%
VIC	117,996	\$162.4	15%	4,679	\$7.4	6%
QLD	253,612	\$353.9	32%	14,904	\$23.7	18%
WA	43,938	\$61.2	6%	2,478	\$4.0	3%
SA	17,508	\$24.1	2%	4,547	\$7.2	5%
TAS	9,850	\$13.8	1%	1,304	\$2.1	2%
ACT	2,471	\$3.4	0%	644	\$1.0	1%
NT	1413	\$2.1	0%	222	\$0.4	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>780,449</b>	<b>\$1,090.0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>84,344</b>	<b>\$134.2</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**


**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



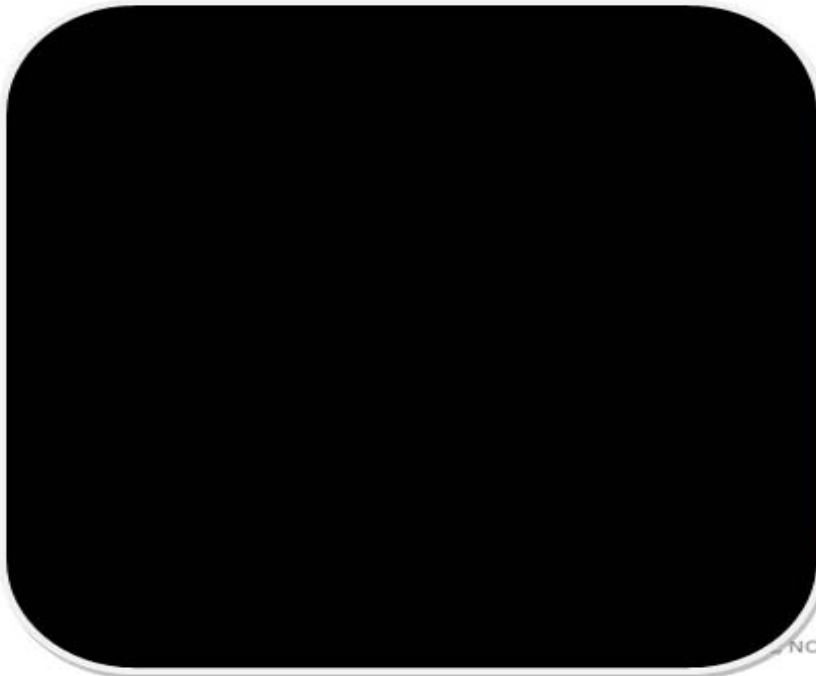
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MONTHLY REPORT TO  
31 DECEMBER 2009





- Early indications are that uptake of the Home Insulation Program may have slowed following changes to the program implemented on 1 December 2009 from a peak of 235,000 in November 2009 to 136,000 and 139,000 in December 2009 and January 2010.



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# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



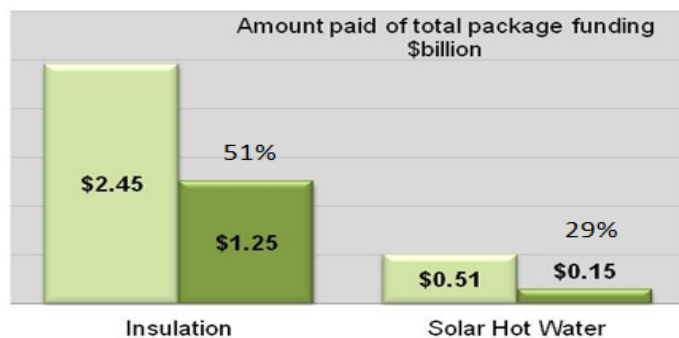
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### ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

MONTHLY REPORT TO  
31 DECEMBER 2009

#### Achievements – Energy Efficient Homes Package



#### Highlights and Potential Issues:

- The take up of home insulation showed a reduction in December with 136,000 claims compared to 235,000 in November following the introduction of new compliance measures which came into effect on 1 December 2009.
- The majority of funding for insulation has been paid against claims from NSW (42%) and Queensland (31%) and claims for solar hot water primarily coming from NSW (66%).
- 6,758 businesses were registered to take part in the Program as at 10 January – these are active businesses that have accepted the terms and conditions of registration.
- There are early indications that the two quote requirement, reduced rebate and tougher compliance will slow take up.
- Application rates under the Solar Hot Water Rebate remain high.

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



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#### ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES PROGRESS

**MONTHLY REPORT TO  
31 DECEMBER 2009**

**Table 19: State and Territory Breakdown of Energy Efficient Homes package**

	Insulation			Solar Hot Water Rebate		
	Claims Paid	Total value of claims	Per cent of total funding paid	Claims Paid	Funding Paid	Per cent of total funding paid
		<i>\$ million</i>			<i>\$ million</i>	
NSW	385,541	\$529.9	42%	60,531	\$95.6	66%
VIC	158,633	\$210.3	17%	5,297	\$8.4	6%
QLD	282,619	\$387.6	31%	16,419	\$26.1	18%
WA	50,684	\$69.2	6%	2,637	\$4.2	3%
SA	21,936	\$29.4	2%	4,889	\$7.7	5%
TAS	11,105	\$15.2	1%	1,413	\$2.2	2%
ACT	1,814	\$2.6	0.2%	698	\$1.1	1%
NT	2824	\$3.8	0.3%	253	\$0.4	0.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>915,156</b>	<b>\$1,248.0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92,137</b>	<b>\$145.8</b>	<b>100%</b>

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**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 3**

**Topic: Discussions with Mr Hook**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**On notice can you please provide documentation as to the actions that you took as a consequence of having those discussions with Mr Hook**

**Answer:**

The discussions with Mr Hook and other Coordinators-General fed into the development of the Home Insulation Program Guidelines, issued in preparation for the 1 July 2009 commencement of the second phase of the program.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 4**

**Topic: Minutes of Weekly Meetings**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Are you able to provide copies of the minutes of the weekly meetings?**

**Answer:**

Minutes of the weekly meetings of the Coordinators-General were not recorded at this time.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 5**

**Topic: Energy Coordination Group Meeting**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**So you and your officers attended one meeting with the energy coordination group, which was around late February?**

**Answer:**

One officer from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet attended the Energy Efficient Homes Package – Industry Consultation held on the 18 February 2009.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 6**

**Topic: Cost Benefit Analysis**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Are you aware of or do you have in your possession a cost-benefit analysis of the housing insulation program?**

**Answer:**

The benefits of installing insulation into homes were investigated prior to the commencement of the Home Insulation Program (HIP), these benefits include improved energy efficiency and reduced energy costs for householders.

The costs associated with installing insulation in homes were also investigated.

Details of any analysis provided to the Government in the development of the HIP are Cabinet-in-Confidence and are not able to be provided to the Committee.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 7**

**Topic: Rescue Package**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**When did you first become aware of the rescue package plan?**

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet participated in discussions with other agencies regarding the future of the Home Insulation Program (HIP) during February 2010. These discussions considered various aspects of the HIP, including the need to consider how best to ensure safety of householders and workers. The discussions and work contributed to the package announced by the Government on 24 February 2010.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 8**

**Topic: Rescue Package**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**What role did you have in the development of the rescue package?** Ms Beauchamp—**We assisted a number of agencies in the development of that package.** Senator BARNETT—**You have been working on that for more than a week or less than a week?** Ms Beauchamp—**More than a week.** Senator BARNETT—**And you will take that on notice?** Ms Beauchamp—**Yes.**

**Answer:**

To confirm the answer provided at the hearing, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet participated in discussions with other agencies regarding the future of the Home Insulation Program (HIP) for more than a week prior to the announcement of the assistance that the Government would provide.

The assistance announced by the Government on 24 February 2010, built on an existing program of assistance that was put in place to support insulation workers to receive training and pursue work opportunities.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 9**

**Topic: Advice of Mr Hook**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 5**

**Is there written material relating to that and can we have a copy of it?**

**Answer:**

There was an e-mail from Mr Hook to Mr Mrdak on 9 June 2009. The text of that e-mail is provided below.

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**From:** Hook, Rod (DTEI)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 9 June 2009 3:13 PM

**To:** 'Mrdak, Mike'

**Cc:** 'Andrew.Wilson@pmc.gov.au'

**Subject:** FW: Weekend Australian article and insulation issue [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED:NO  
CAVEATS]

Hi Mike,

Comment on the registration of insulation installers follows. I will respond separately on Cleve School.

(a) South Australia has a requirement for insulation installation to be undertaken by licenced installers. This pre-dates the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan initiatives. Any person or business seeking to install or retrofit insulation in South Australia, whether under the rebate program or otherwise, must be licensed under the *Building Work Contractors Act 1995*. They must have (1) a building work contractors licence which includes insulation within its scope; and (2) the person or business must also nominate a registered supervisor/s who will be present for all work and who has insulation in their scope of competencies. The licensing requirements apply to both principal contractors and sub-contractors. Any plumbers or electricians seeking to diversify their businesses to include retrofitting insulation, and who are currently separately licensed under the *Plumbers Gas Fitters and Electricians Act 1995*, must also apply for a building work contractor licence and supervisor registration as outlined above. Licensing is managed by the SA Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA).

(b) As at the beginning of June 2009, of the 96 installers who had indicated their interest as part of the Australian Government's pre-registration process, only 40 have relevant licensing in SA. The balance (56) would essentially be "new entrants" requiring licensing. A further influx of license-related applications (contractors and supervisors) may be expected following the Australian Government's planned broad-scale communications (ads, forums and more) through June and July 2009.

(c) My Coordinator General office has been working closely with OCBA since the announcement of the insulation rebate program to determine opportunities to streamline and fast-track licensing processes in SA for insulation installers to maximise early rollout capacity and job/stimulus creation in SA. A typical license application for building work currently takes about 6-8 weeks (not the 6 months indicated in the issue raised with your office). By instituting fast-track mechanisms, OCBA is expecting this period could be reduced to under a month and possibly less (where scope of work is limited to insulation). This includes completion of any necessary insulation course. Fast-tracking mechanisms include:

- 48 hour turnaround to verify that those seeking to enrol on the Australian Government's register, and nominating SA as their geographic area of work, have appropriate licensing in SA. Those not having appropriate licensing will be diverted to a fast-track process developed specifically for ceiling insulation installers
- An additional 2 dedicated licensing officers to March 2010 to deal with the expected influx of ceiling insulation-related applications during rollout of the program

# **Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

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- "Priority service" negotiated with SA Police Department for national police certificates (licensing requirement)
- Creating a new endorsement for building work contractor licences which can be limited to "ceiling insulation" only. This will confine the competencies necessary to be demonstrated and speed assessment. It does not prevent the applicant seeking a broader scope of work if they choose to, either initially or at a later time.
- Removing the need to demonstrate the \$8,000 minimum asset base in order to obtain the building work contractor licence where scope is limited to ceiling insulation only. Any risk associated with removing this requirement is countered by the Australian Government's requirement for registered installers to have appropriate insurance.
- Seeking formal recognition by the Commissioner for Consumer and Business Affairs of the competencies relevant for insulation installation, to both support the new restricted endorsement, and to ensure that competencies for licensing align with the Australian Government's registration requirements.
- Working directly with the Master Builders Association of South Australia (MBASA) to ensure availability of insulation installation courses for license applicants from June 2009, both in metropolitan and regional areas. This does not prevent other registered training organisations from taking up or delivering the course competencies, but ensures capacity for fast rollout and accessibility, as well as ability to schedule additional courses to meet demand as necessary. MBASA's role would include:
  - default provision of insulation installation competencies, particularly during the June to August period to service the initial influx of new licensing applicants
  - default/dedicated provision of the course in regional areas based on demand collated by OCBA through the licensing process
  - developing and managing simulated practical assessment (alternative to on-job assessment) to speed course completion and attainment whilst maintaining robustness of that assessment e.g. building of in-situ roof spaces which are also portable to regional areas
  - working directly with the Construction Industry Skills Board of SA to gain recognition of the insulation installation course for training subsidy purposes (this is unique to SA and has capacity to provide up to 50 per cent or more of the cost of training for applicants).

(d) I am aware that the SA State Coordinator for the insulation program has made representations to his Commonwealth counterparts about support for fast-tracking of licensing processes in SA. His proposal also includes an integrated model for communications, complaints, investigations, auditing and enforcement related to the insulation program in SA. This is subject to further discussion between the parties.

(e) A further model is currently being developed to ensure "hard to get" households and markets in SA are serviced by the insulation program (i.e. rental, low income, special needs, and remote). This includes an initial trial for Northern Suburbs areas of Adelaide and targetted rollout across the State. This is intended to maximise penetration of insulation (and hot water rebates) in these markets as well as further job creation/stimulus with a focus on transitioning

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long term unemployed and newly unemployed into the workforce through insulation businesses - as supervisors and/or labourers - as well as longer term job markets beyond the stimulus package.

Hope this helps

Regards

Rod Hook

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# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 10**

**Topic: Changes to Guidelines**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 4**

**Do you have a grid that summarises what got changed and when?**

**Answer:**

There have been significant changes to the Home Insulation Program Guidelines since being first issued in early 2009. Each time the requirements for the training and competency of installers were increased and tightened.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been advised by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts of the key changes including:

Timeline of changes in standards	
Phase 1: Early Installation	
Between 3 February 2009 and 30 June 2009	<p>Interim guidelines were issued (<i>Early Installation Guidelines</i>) which required insulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) be installed by the owner or employee of a registered business (with an Australian Business Number) operating in the installation of thermal insulation;</li><li>b) be installed to various Australian Standards and comply (as a minimum) to a specified R-value;</li><li>c) be new ceiling insulation material installed in an existing dwelling (not an extension or a new dwelling covered by mandatory thermal performance requirements for new housing under the Building Code of Australia); and</li><li>d) be installed in the householder's principal residence.</li></ul> <p>There were no specific training or competency requirements.</p> <p>Householders were not allowed to install their own insulation. Insulation had to be installed by suitably trained and experienced installers or under close supervision.</p> <p>Government housing was not eligible for assistance under the Program.</p>

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Phase 2: Home Insulation Program	
From 1 July 2009	<p>Under relevant laws, installers have obligations and a duty of care to their employees, contractors and sub-contractors to provide a safe work environment, safe systems of work, and adequate training and supervision.</p> <p>Installers were required to comply with minimum competency requirements and those who failed to provide evidence of minimum competency were not eligible to participate.</p> <p>The Guidelines mandated insulation be installed by an installer listed on the Program's Installer Provider Register:</p> <p>a) OHS induction training required for all installers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is evidenced by:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ OHS induction card <u>OR</u></li><li>○ White Card <u>OR</u></li><li>○ Statement of attainment from an Registered Training Organisation (RTO) against CPCCOHS1001A Work Safely in <i>the Construction Industry</i>.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>b) Business/ Installer was required to provide evidence of 1 of 3 competencies and ensure every installer was supervised by a person who had one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A relevant trade qualification; or</li><li>• Completed insulation installation training;</li><li>• Have 2 years prior experience in installing insulation.</li></ul> <p>To register on the Installer Provider Register, installers were required to provide the following information:</p> <p>a) The name of the organisation which must be a "legal entity", i.e. a registered company, incorporated association or body corporate established by statute or the name of an individual, including trading name(s);</p> <p>b) The Australian Business Number of the organisation;</p> <p>c) Contact details; and</p> <p>d) The geographical area where insulation installation services would be provided.</p> <p>Installers had to also:</p> <p>a) provide proof that they met the minimum competency standards including state and territory requirements;</p> <p>b) provide proof that the specified insurance was held;</p> <p>c) accept the Terms and Conditions of Registration.</p>

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

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### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

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Timeline of changes in standards	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Installers who did not comply with the Terms and Conditions of registration may be removed from the Installer Provider Register.</li></ul>
From midnight on 1 September 2009	<p>Installers were now required to provide evidence of qualifications and/or competencies at the time of registration. Currently registered installers were required to provide evidence of qualifications and/or competencies as part of the compliance strategy. New installers were required to provide this information before they could be included on the Installer Provider Register.</p> <p>When advertising, installers had to report that “householder eligibility criteria apply”.</p> <p>Physical site inspection was required before providing a quote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Every householder wanting an installation was required to obtain a written quote from an installer based on a physical site inspection except in remote areas where special provisions applied. The quote had to contain details of the insulation product type, the insulation R-Value, the area to be insulated, total cost (GST inclusive), breakdown of the cost including price per square metre, labour and materials. Multiple quotes were recommended for comparison purposes.</li></ul>
From 2 November 2009	<p>Ceiling insulation installation must now include the use of an appropriate cover over down lights and other relevant ceiling appliances, as approved and installed in accordance with relevant Australian Standards. This is a key safety fire protection. Where it is not possible or appropriate to install a cover (e.g. due to space limitations in flat ceilings) installers must still leave the minimum clearance distance required under the relevant Standards.</p> <p>Ceiling insulation must now be installed without the use of metal staples or other metal fasteners to fasten insulation products as an electrical safety measure. Taping of fastening with nylon/plastic staples or any other non metallic means was permitted.</p> <p>Introduced a targeted electrical safety inspection program of Queensland homes with foil insulation installed under the Program.</p>

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

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Timeline of changes in standards	
From 1 December 2009	<p>Two genuinely independent quotes requirement introduced.</p> <p>Deregistered Installers were to be listed on the website.</p> <p>Insulation must not be installed with the use of non-insulating metal or conductive implements.</p> <p>Mandatory formal risk assessment requirement introduced prior to work on any installation.</p> <p>Obligations under <i>Workplace Health and Safety</i> standards were reinforced noting that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Installers must mitigate the risk of electrical shock by use of appropriate control measures including turning off electricity supply”.</li> <li>“Installers must not complete licensed electrical work”</li> <li>All workers under the program must have read the <i>Construction Industry Pocket Book - Resource for installers of ceiling insulation</i></li> </ol>
9 February 2010	Use of foil insulation under the Program was suspended.
10 February 2010	Mandated that every home with foil insulation installed under the Program would undergo an electrical safety inspection.
By 12 February 2010 and onwards	<p>Specific requirements were introduced in addition to the mandatory Occupational Health and Safety induction training and enhancements to the ‘Install Ceiling Insulation’ training materials and formal risk assessments for each job. These requirements applied to every person involved in the installation of insulation (not just the head contractor):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>trade specific competency or qualification; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is categorised as Licensed builder, electrician, carpenter, bricklayer, plasterer, painter or plumber (or equivalent qualification, if no licensing requirements exist) in the relevant State or Territory.</li> <li>This is evidenced by a licence/s.</li> </ul> </li> <li>possess prior insulation industry experience; or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is categorised as experience and skill in installing ceiling insulation as a result of relevant work experience over a significant period of time (at least two years); and an understanding of the relevant Australian Standards and the Building Code of Australia.</li> <li>This is evidenced by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstration of prior industry experience (i.e. training or other competencies obtained at least two years ago, invoices and receipts for payment obtained at least two years ago, yellow pages advertisements from at least</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>

# Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)

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Timeline of changes in standards	
	<p>two years ago). AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstration of industry knowledge / association through industry body participation. AND</li><li>• Statutory Declaration or statement of prior industry experience. This is a legal document.</li></ul> <p>c) an Insulation Specific Competency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is categorised as having completed a registered or accredited training course.</li><li>• This is evidenced by:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statement of attainment from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), against the BCG03 or CPC08 Training Package relating to insulation installation.</li><li>• Statement of attainment from RTO demonstrating:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CPCCOHS2001A Apply OHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry; AND</li><li>- CPCCPB3014A Install batt insulation products OR CPCCPB3015A Install acoustic and thermal environmental protection systems; AND</li><li>- CPCCCM1006A Work Safety at Heights; OR</li><li>- Equivalents.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
22 February 2010	Mandated that 15 per cent of homes with non-foil insulation installed under the Program will be inspected.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 11**

**Topic: Briefings to PM or Cabinet**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Mr Mrdak, you confirmed that there were none earlier than that. Mr Mrdak—Not that I am aware of. Senator BIRMINGHAM—Can you take it on notice if there is a level of doubt there. Mr Mrdak—Certainly.**

**Answer:**

The Office of the Coordinator-General provided briefings for Cabinet Committee meetings from time to time on the rollout of the Economic Stimulus Plan and its performance against COAG agreed milestones. The contents of these briefings are Cabinet-in-Confidence.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 12**

**Topic: Briefings to Cabinet or Minister Arbib**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**In relation to the second area of those changes, the changes to accreditation and installer registration processes, when was the first set of advice on those topics provided to cabinet or Minister Arbib or whoever it was first provided to?**

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet discussed changes to accreditation and installer registration processes with Minister Arbib prior to the roll-out. There were no written briefs provided to Minister Arbib on this specific matter.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 13**

**Topic: Concerns about accreditation, training and registration standards**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**When did the environment department and the Office of the Coordinator-General or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet first have an exchange about concerns that the accreditation, training and registration standards were not adequate enough**

**Answer:**

As advised to the Committee at the hearing and as detailed in the answer to Question 10, changes to accreditation, training and registration standards were made throughout the Program. The Office of the Coordinator-General has been involved in discussions regarding these standards throughout the delivery of the Home Insulation Program.

# **Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

#### **Question: 14**

#### **Topic: Installer Bulletins**

#### **Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

#### **Number of pages: 2**

Mr Mrdak ...I would be more than happy to provide the committee, if the environment department has not already, with the material from the website that sets out that series of installer bulletins that were made available and dealt with those issues.

#### **Answer:**

Installer Advice notes are publically available from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/eehp/installer-advice.html>

Installer Advisory notes were released on the following dates:

<b>Advice Number</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	29 June 2009
2	15 July 2009
3	22 July 2009
4	6 August 2009
5	24 August 2009
6	27 August 2009
7	2 September 2009
8	11 September 2009
9	29 September 2009
10	9 October 2009
11	19 October 2009

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<b>Advice Number</b>	<b>Date</b>
12	26 October 2009
13	1 November 2009
14	5 November 2009
15	13 November 2009
16	18 November 2009
17	27 November 2009
18	11 December 2009
19	17 December 2009
20	23 December 2009
21	12 January 2010
22	4 February 2010
23	9 February 2010
24	11 February 2010
25	19 February 2010
26	9 March 2010

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 15**

**Topic: Employment Outcomes**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**In terms of the employment impact, I might have to ask Mr Hoffman. I have not got those figures in front of me, but we can certainly take those on notice.**

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not hold employment data for insulation installers. Estimates had been made about the workforce based on the assessment of insulation installer business information provided under the management of the program by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

To confirm the answer provided at the Hearing, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet had been advised by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts that as of December 2009, there were 6,313 registered installer businesses. Each registered installer business was assumed to have two installers at a minimum, which led to the estimate of 12,000 individuals.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 16**

**Topic: Employment Outcomes**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Mr Hoffman—I can check that. I said that there were about 7,000 registered installers and about 12,000 individuals, so we are not that far out in terms of the numbers.**

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question 15.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 17**

**Topic: Effects of closing the program**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

On the issue of jobs, Ms Beauchamp, I understood you said that you have achieved your employment outcome, but clearly the vast majority of the workforce has now been sacked. Is that right? Is that your understanding? Ms Beauchamp—No, it is not my understanding. As there were a number of more stringent requirements put in place around audit and compliance the number of businesses involved in installation declined and as I said previously I would have to take on notice exactly those employment numbers you are seeking. Senator BARNETT—What is your estimate of, firstly, the total number involved in the workforce and, secondly, those affected by the closure of the program? Ms Beauchamp—I would not like to speculate. Senator BARNETT—You do not know? You have no estimate? You are not aware of an estimate? Ms Beauchamp—I am not aware of an estimate and will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question 15.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 18**

**Topic: Mr Tikey's letter of 9 February 2009**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

Mr Cairns—Senator, I cannot recall this letter specifically, so we would have to take that on notice. I can alert you to the fact that our practice would have been, in this instance, to refer it to the department, but I am happy to confirm whether or not that did occur.

**Answer:**

The letter in question was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 11 February 2009.

As is usual practice, the ministerial area of the Department referred the letter to the Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts. This occurred on 13 February 2009.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 19**

**Topic: Communication with Bereaved or victims of house fires**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

Have you or your department or the Prime Minister communicated with any of the families affected by the house fires and/or the deaths? I am aware that the Prime Minister has publicly said that he has written to one of the families regarding one of the deaths. Ms Beauchamp—That is correct. That is the communication I am aware of. Senator BARNETT—Are you aware of any other communication with the other three families or about the 93 house fires? Ms Beauchamp—No, I am not aware. Senator BARNETT—Can you take that on notice and check? Ms Beauchamp—I can certainly check from the department's point of view, but I am not sure what contact the minister or minister's officers may have had.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has not communicated with any of the families of the four deceased persons or those impacted by the house fires.

The Prime Minister has corresponded with two of the families of deceased insulation installers.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 20**

**Topic: Reports to Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Are you able to provide the committee with a copy of those reports?**

**Answer:**

Reports provided to Cabinet and Cabinet's deliberations are unable to be provided to the Committee.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 21**

**Topic: Reports to Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**In your time in that position was safety ever mentioned in those reports?**

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question 20.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 22**

**Topic: Reports to Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Can you also indicate how many of those reports were provided from your former unit to cabinet and when those reports were provided?**

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question 20.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 23**

**Topic: Information pack for Labor**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

Could we have a copy of the information pack that I mentioned before, which I understand is being provided to the caucus of Labor MPs heading out to insulators and installers? I will put that on notice for your department and for the environment department, because we do not know from whom it is coming.

**Answer:**

As indicated to the Committee during the hearing, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not prepare these information packs and does not have a copy.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 24**

**Topic: Briefs**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

Can we have copies of all related briefs about the Home Insulation Program or at least the dates on which they were provided to the Prime Minister, to the Prime Minister's office, to Minister Arbib and to cabinet—so the sequence of dates on which they were provided relating to this program. Mr Mrdak, you confirmed for us that there was no brief sent to, nor any brief requested by, the Prime Minister or Minister Arbib after the first death on 25 October. Were there any briefs sent or requested after the second death in November or the third death in November? Of course, we are quite sure there were after the fourth death, by February, but were there any in relation to the second or third?

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question 2.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not prepare briefings for the Prime Minister or Minister Arbib immediately following each of the deaths of installers. In response to correspondence from two of the families of deceased workers, briefings and draft responses were prepared for the Prime Minister in February and March 2010.

The Department prepared background briefing papers for the Prime Minister's Office in February 2010.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 25**

**Topic: Risk Assessment process**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**What risk assessment processes have been put in place for the replacement Home Insulation Program, which the Prime Minister says will be operational by 1 June 2010? Who will undertake them and be involved in them? Who will be involved in stakeholder consultation? Will all Ministers and Cabinet be provided with a copy of the risk assessment**

**Answer:**

The new program, the Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme, will be established by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and these questions should be directed to that Department.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 26**

**Topic: Home Insulation Program Start date**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Did any briefings provided to Minister Garrett, Senator Arbib or the Prime Minister canvass a start date to the Home Insulation Program later than 1 July 2009?**

**Answer:**

The Home Insulation Program commenced on 3 February 2009. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is not aware of any briefings provided to Senator Arbib or the Prime Minister canvassing a start date to the second phase of the Home Insulation Program later than 1 July 2009.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 27**

**Topic: Support Mechanisms**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**What proportion of wages will former insulation installers expect to be paid under the support mechanisms being offered by the Government? How much will former insulation installers be paid under the support mechanisms being offered by the Government? How quickly is this support available? When can the first installer expect to receive a financial payment?**

**Answer:**

It would be appropriate to refer these questions to the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 28**

**Topic: Financial Support to Installers**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**What financial support exists for businesses involved in installing insulation? What assistance is there for these businesses to pay rent? What assistance is there for these businesses to pay for orders of stock made prior to the suspension of the program? What tax relief is available to these businesses? When, if at all, can the first insulation installation business expect to receive a payment? How many of these businesses existing prior to the suspension of the Home Insulation Program? How many does the Government estimate have or will exit the business before resumption of the program?**

**Answer:**

The Government has announced measures to assist workers affected by the cancellation of the Home Insulation Program.

The Government's key announcement about assistance can be viewed at:

<http://www.pm.gov.au/node/6500>

Specific information about assistance can be viewed at:

<http://www.keepaustraliaworking.gov.au/pages/InsulationWorkersAdjustmentPackage.aspx>

[http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/work\\_opportunities/pages/default.aspx](http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/work_opportunities/pages/default.aspx)

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is not in a position to estimate the number of installer businesses that might seek or be accepted for registration under the Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 29**

**Topic: Financial Support to Manufacturers and Importers**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

What financial support exists for businesses involved in manufacturing or importing insulation? What assistance is there for these businesses to pay rent? What assistance is there for these businesses to pay for orders of stock made prior to the suspension of the program? What tax relief is available to these businesses? When, if at all, can the first insulation manufacturing or importing business expect to receive a payment? How many of these businesses existing prior to the suspension of the Home Insulation Program? How many does the Government estimate have or will exit the business before resumption of the program?

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer to Question 28.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 30**

**Topic: Consultation**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**What consultation took place with state governments prior to the suspension of the program? What consultation took place with the states prior to the announcement of financial assistance for those impacted by the suspension? What role will the states have in providing or coordinating assistance? What consultation is taking place with the states in relation to the design of the new program?**

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has regular phone link ups with State and Territory Coordinators-General on a fortnightly basis.

Prior to the announcement of the termination of the Home Insulation Program, two additional phone link ups were convened by the Commonwealth Coordinator-General with State and Territory Coordinators-General. These meetings focussed on the responsibilities of State and Territory Governments with respect to Occupational Health and Safety, building regulation and complaints handling.

There was no consultation with State and Territory Governments about the termination of the Program.

Consultation with the states and territories on the new program will be the responsibility of the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 31**

**Topic: Briefings**

**Type of Question: Written**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**How many briefings were provided to Senator Arbib that contained information on the Home Insulation Program? When were these provided? Were all of these briefings noted or acted upon by the Parliamentary Secretary/Minister? If not, which ones weren't? How many of these briefings raised issues of risk or training? When were they provided to the Minister? Please provide copies or relevant briefings?**

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided to question 2.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 32**

**Topic: Briefings**

**Type of Question: Cabinet and Implementation Unit Reporting**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**How many times did the Cabinet Implementation Unit report on the Home Insulation**

**Program as part of their regular 'traffic light' reports? When were these reports provided?**

**What colour was the Home Insulation Program afforded on each occasion?**

**Answer:**

Please refer to the answer provided to Question 20.

**Environment, Communications and the Arts Reference Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into Energy Efficient Homes Package (Ceiling Insulation)**

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Question: 33**

**Topic: Breach of Code of Conduct**

**Type of Question: Question on Notice**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Has the Prime Ministers code of conduct been breached by Minister Garrett and possibly Minister Arbib? If not , why not?**

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is not responsible for administration of the Prime Minister's Code of Conduct. There has been no announcement by the Prime Minister that the Prime Minister's Code of Conduct (Australian Government *Standards of Ministerial Ethics*, dated December 2007) has been breached by Minister Garrett or Senator Arbib.