

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES SESSION

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-22 November 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Closing the Gap

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Type of Question: Written

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Question:

I refer to Minister Scullion's statements in his media release of 9 August 2013:

"The Coalition will provide bipartisan support for Labor's proposed new Closing the Gap targets on incarceration rates, higher education and disability services..."

- (a) Why has the Coalition Government back flipped on its support of the three new Close the Gap targets – namely, justice, disability and education targets?
- (b) Why was the Coalition publicly committed to the targets before the election, and is now only committed to "considering" and "examining" these targets?

Answer:

Policy decisions on any potential new targets are a matter for the Government.