

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Australia Institute report – briefing

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 4

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WONG: Did you provide a question time brief?

Ms McDevitt: I would need to take that on notice, but not that I am aware of.

Senator WONG: So when the minister queried in the parliament the accuracy of that report, that was on the basis of her opinion and not on any advice she received?

Senator Cash: The department would not necessarily be aware of what my answer was to the question when they do not know what the question was.

Senator WONG: Yes, of course they would. They always watch. I am sure they would be aware of what question you were asked and what was answered.

Senator Cash: I did not ask the question.

Senator WONG: What question was asked and what you answered, Minister? Can I have an answer to my question?

Ms Cross: I was just going to say, we will take that on notice. We certainly provided advice to the minister on the budget, which she may have drawn on in responding to the question. But without having the question in front of me, we would need to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department provides briefing on a range of matters to the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women on a regular basis. Consistent with longstanding practice of successive governments the Department does not comment on matters provided to the Minister.