

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Mr Rudd - Secretary General UN

Senator: Wong, Penny

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Question:

Senator WONG: I turn now to a bunch of questions on the Secretary-General of the UN. I just want to get some process clarified. First, just a process question: can you tell me on how many occasions the issue of the next Secretary-General of the UN was discussed at cabinet or cabinet committees?

Senator Brandis: We do not discuss what happens in cabinet.

Senator WONG: Not the content, but if something has gone to cabinet on three occasions those questions have routinely been asked and answered.

Senator Brandis: Not if they reveal what was discussed at cabinet.

Senator WONG: I have not asked what was discussed. The issue of the Secretary—

Senator Brandis: You asked whether something was discussed.

Senator WONG: It has been routinely asked and answered in these Senate committees whether something has been to cabinet and, if so, on how many occasions. That is all I want to know. I am not going to ask who said what in relation to Mr Rudd. I just want to know on how many occasions it has been before cabinet.

Senator Brandis: I will take that on notice for the purpose of considering my position in relation to the assertion you have just made. In any event, I will take it on notice.

Answer:

We do not discuss what happens in cabinet.