

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2010-11
23 February 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Office of the Chief Scientist

TOPIC: Prime Minister's Science Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC)

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 February 2011, E44)

QUESTION No.: AI-16

Senator COLBECK—Of all the PMSEIC meetings held since the government was elected in 2007, how many has the Prime Minister attended in full?

Senator Carr—I would have to take that on notice, but on my recollection it is just about all of them. The last one was on the morning when the Prime Minister was in North Queensland dealing with the consequences of the cyclone.

Senator COLBECK—I am asking about since 2007. That was a specific event, and this is a legitimate question.

Senator Carr—I would have to check the record, but my recollection is that the Prime Minister was in attendance at all PMSEIC meetings. I would be very surprised—I just want to check the record, but there were occasions—

Senator COLBECK—I am happy with that as an answer. It is nothing more than that question; if that is the answer, that you are going to give it to us on notice, then I am very happy with that as an answer. Are you also able to provide us with a record of attendance of the other ministers who are members of the council? I am happy for that to be taken on notice as well.

Ms Weston—Yes, on notice.

ANSWER

There have been five PMSEIC meetings since the federal election in 2007. Prime Minister Rudd attended the first four meetings (PMSEIC 18-21). Prime Minister Gillard was unable to attend the 5th meeting (PMSEIC 22). The date of the PMSEIC meetings, number of Ministerial members and number of Ministerial members in attendance are listed below.

Meeting	Date	Ministerial membership	Attendance
PMSEIC 22	4 February 2011	14	2
PMSEIC 21	18 March 2010	12	3
PMSEIC 20	5 June 2009	12	6
PMSEIC 19	9 October 2008	12	6
PMSEIC 18	23 April 2008	12	4