

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

31 May – 2 June 2011

Question No: BET 266  
Topic: Tax Forum  
Hansard Page: 2 June 2011 P37

Senator Ludlam asked:

**Senator LUDLAM:** I want to ask—I do not know whether it has been canvassed very much this morning—about the tax forum coming up in October. If that has not been addressed—

**Senator Wong:** No, it has not while I have been here. But it might have been done in revenue, when I was not here.

**Dr Parkinson:** That would have been the revenue group last night.

**Senator Wong:** I am sure that the secretary can assist as much as he can.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Could you tell us what preparation you are putting in place in advance of that? I understand that it is going to be a two-day summit for later in October.

**Dr Parkinson:** That is right. We are doing work in the department and are in discussion with the Treasurer about issues that might be covered in the forum. We are talking to a range of interested stakeholders about what their views of things that might be covered could be. I think the Treasurer is on the public record as saying that it is the intention to put out a framing paper prior to the summit and to encourage other interested parties, whether they are attending or not, to either respond to that paper or put forward their own submissions, the idea being that there will be a rich array of background material for the participants at the forum prior to the forum itself.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Who do you define as an 'interested party'? This thing is probably going to impact everybody in Australia, one way or another.

**Dr Parkinson:** That is right. At this stage, we are in very preliminary thinking about which sorts of groups might be represented at the forum, but we are talking to anybody either who wishes to knock on our door or who we know has an interest in this. We have started talking, but we are nowhere near complete. So it is the usual suspects, in other words.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Are you able to tell us when you think the Treasurer's discussion paper would be expected to appear?

**Dr Parkinson:** No, I cannot. But—

**Senator Wong:** Why don't we take that on notice, Senator?

Answer: In his media release of 20 March 2011 (No. 20 of 2011), the Deputy Prime Minister stated that he would 'release a discussion paper in the middle of the year to help foster the debate'.