

## Estimates 2005-06 — Additional Estimates, February 2006

## Questions on Notice Index—Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM1	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 39,40 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Dr Morauta, when were you informed of the government decision in relation to this matter? Dr Morauta—I think I will take the question on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—When were you informed of the government's decision? Senator Minchin—That is the same question, Mr Chairman, really. Senator FAULKNER—I am sorry, but it is a very different question. Dr Morauta—Again, I will take it on notice.</p>	Answer received 8/5/06
PM2	PM&C	Ray	F&PA 40 13/02/06	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Were you informed in writing, if you were so informed? Do you want to take that on notice? Dr Morauta—Yes.</p>	Answer received 8/5/06
PM3	PM&C	Ray	F&PA 40 13/02/06	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Thank you. Have you communicated this ruling to anyone else in the department? Dr Morauta—Again, I will take it on notice.</p>	Answer received 8/5/06
PM4	PM&C	Ray	F&PA 41-42 13/02/06	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—But you are also making clear that officers of ONA can be called. You are making that clear to me, and that is the reason I cannot ask them questions. Senator Minchin—That is my understanding. I am happy to take that on notice if you want confirmation of that. Senator ROBERT RAY—I would be very interested to know whether Mr Cole can call— Senator Minchin—It is my understanding that all officials are within the government sector. Senator ROBERT RAY—So you are saying Mr Cole can call security agencies before him for information. Senator Minchin—If Mr Cole believes that that is necessary in order for him to comply with the terms of reference and report properly on these matters, then that would be my understanding—but I will get confirmation of that.</p>	Answer received 13/4/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM5	PM&C	Ray	F&PA 42 13/02/06	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—I know the answer to this, but you might as well confirm it: you have not actually checked with Mr Cole that he has any objection to Senate estimates probing some of these areas and he has not raised it with you, has he?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—It is a matter for the government to determine what is appropriate when the royal commission is on. I do not think that is a question you would put to the royal commission. That is asking him to make a political judgement.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—But I am saying there has not been an objection raised by Mr Cole—to questions in parliament, for instance.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—It is a matter for the government to decide what attitude should be taken to questions on this matter in an estimates committee when a royal commission is on. It would be quite unfair to put that to Mr Cole.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—I am not suggesting that you do it, but he has not raised an objection with the government, has he?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Would you? You do not know?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—I am happy to take that on notice.</p>	Answer received 13/4/06
PM6	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 55 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Can you say when those documents were collected and passed through to the Cole royal commission? Can you also say when you issued the instruction for documents to be provided to you?</p> <p>Mr Borrowman—I would have to take both of those on notice.</p>	Received 19/5/06
PM7	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 55 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Can you say whether it was before or after the announcement of the Cole royal commission?</p> <p>Mr Borrowman—No. Again, I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Received 19/5/06
PM8	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 55 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—You have taken on notice for me when you collected these documents. Are you able to tell the committee when you passed them through to the Cole commission?</p> <p>Dr Morauta—I think the officer said they were passed to DFAT.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I am sorry. They were to be passed to the Cole commission via DFAT. Can you say when they were passed through to DFAT? Can you say when you passed the documents to DFAT?</p> <p>Mr Borrowman—Not off the top of my head. I can get back to you on that.</p>	Received 19/5/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM9	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 62 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—That is right—searched. PM&amp;C searched 36,000 emails for the CMI inquiry. Do we have any figures about numbers of files, emails et cetera that were searched in relation to this particular inquiry?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—I do not think we have any at the table, but we will take that on notice and see if it is possible to supply you with that information—</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—If you do not have it at the table, could you perhaps—</p> <p>Senator Minchin—not that I necessarily see any particular relevance of that inquiry to this one.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Thoroughness of search is what this is going to.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Thoroughness is the one thing that you have agreed with me about. You said a search should be thorough.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—I am happy to take that on notice and see if we can—</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I wonder if you could perhaps look behind and ask if one of your officials with IT responsibility could assist us. In broad terms, I thought those sorts of statistics might be available. Dr Ball seems to be very expert on this.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—We would prefer to take that on notice and see if we can get you an answer.</p>	Received 19/5/06
PM10	PM&C	Ray	F&PA 70 13/02/06	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—While you are at it, find out how it was transmitted to public servants. You might as well take all that on notice and then decide what you will respond to.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—I am happy to do that.</p>	Answer Received 8/5/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM11	PM&C	Ray	F&PA 71-72 13/02/06	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—When the Volcker inquiry was set up, did the government support its being set up? Mr Borrowman—Yes.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—It did support its being set up? Why? That question is to the minister, and, if he wants to delegate it, he can.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—The Minister for Foreign Affairs is obviously the relevant responsible minister with regard to Australia's attitude to UN activity, of which this was an example, so we are at somewhat of a loss. I think this is a relevant line of inquiry for DFAT, and if you wish us to seek to take that on notice we can, but I would have thought you should pursue it with DFAT.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Minchin—And I am indicating to you that I think that is a matter you should put to DFAT.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—They do not know what PM&amp;C did. I am asking PM&amp;C whether they had an input into this. In some cases, foreign affairs issues go across government in consultation with PM&amp;C, and in others they do not. I am asking whether, in this case, there was consultation with PM&amp;C on this as a matter.</p> <p>Mr Borrowman—I would have to take that on notice.</p>	Received 19/5/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM12	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 74-75, 80 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Who were the colleagues, is what we are after. You have indicated you have gone up the line.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Who?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—Mr Borrowman has indicated that he consulted with senior officers before he sent the documents across.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Minchin—In this case Mr Borrowman is not going to indicate which officers, but he is prepared to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—You are going to take that on notice, are you?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—Yes.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator Minchin—We have said we will take on notice your question as to the names of the officers with whom Mr Borrowman consulted in determining which documents would be sent to Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—No, be precise, Minister: the senior officers, not the junior ones. We would not have asked that question.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—I asked—and you heard the question, Senator Minchin, if you were concentrating: who was consulted up the line? Which were the more senior officers consulted?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—Yes, and we will come back to you with some information.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Yes, but the question is: who above him in the order of hierarchy in PM&amp;C did he consult? You know the answer to it; you are taking it on notice; you are not giving us the answer now. Do you want to contest any part of that statement?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—We have taken on notice that question.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Who is ‘we’? Who are the more senior officers?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—We have taken that on notice.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Do you know who the more senior officers are?</p> <p>Mr Borrowman—I have taken that on notice.</p>	Received 19/5/06

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Department / agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Hansard reference</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>PM13</b>	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 75 13/02/06	Senator FAULKNER—I am happy to accept that. Now I am asking: was everyone consulted an official of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet? Senator Minchin—We are not giving you an answer to that, but we will take it on notice.	Received 19/5/06
<b>PM14</b>	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 75 13/02/06	Senator FAULKNER—I want to know whether the Prime Minister's staff were consulted. Can you tell us that? Senator Minchin—No, I am not prepared to go into that sort of detail. Senator FAULKNER—Why not? You can rule it out if they were not. If the Prime Minister's staff were not consulted, just rule it out and we will move on. Can you rule it out? Senator Minchin—At this point I would prefer to take that on notice.	Received 19/5/06
<b>PM15</b>	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 78 13/02/06	Mr Borrowman—As I indicated before, it went under a covering letter from me to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Senator FAULKNER—A covering letter? Mr Borrowman—Yes. Senator FAULKNER—Is there any reason why a copy of that letter could not be provided to the committee? I assume it is a public document. Mr Borrowman—I do not know the answer to that. I would have to have a look at it and take advice on that.	Received 19/5/06
<b>PM16</b>	PM&C	Ray	F&PA 78 13/02/06	Senator ROBERT RAY—If I can help out, I think that what he is asking is whether the documents were put in categories or chronological order. Mr Borrowman—I honestly cannot say. I would imagine they would have been in chronological order. It would have been the logical way to do it. ... Mr Borrowman—We will find out for you.	Received 19/5/06
<b>PM17</b>	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 78-79 13/02/06	Senator FAULKNER—Do you know how many documents there were? Mr Borrowman—Not off the top of my head. I would have to go back and look at the file copy. Senator FAULKNER—Could you do that? Mr Borrowman—Yes, I can take that on notice.	Received 19/5/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM18	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 79 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Do you know what the nature of the documents were? Do know how many were electronic and how many were hard copy files?</p> <p>Mr Borrowman—We will take that one on notice too.</p>	Received 19/5/06
PM19	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 82 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—No, I am not going to what advice. I am asking whether what Mr Borrowman is saying is that, effectively, the advice that goes to the Prime Minister is a drop copy of what is provided to DFAT. Is that what we are talking about?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—I think Mr Borrowman has indicated that a copy of the pack—as we are describing it here—was not provided to the Prime Minister but, presumably, a copy of the letter or a letter paraphrasing the letter that was sent to DFAT was provided.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—When did that advice go to the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Mr Borrowman—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have that date in my head.</p>	Received 19/5/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM20	PM&C	Murray	F&PA 106-107 13/02/06	<p>Senator MURRAY— ...</p> <p>In what instances would an Australian government—both in precedent terms and in present circumstances—initiate a proclamation which would trigger treason and treachery offences? The reason I ask this is that with some of the war talk going out around about Iran, and some people are talking up hard talk and so on, I would like to know on what basis Australia would ever make a statement which would trigger treason and treachery offences, because they do not seem to me to apply with respect to the AWB issue.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—You are certainly correct to say that I could not answer that question without notice. It is more pertinent, I guess, to A-G's and/or DFAT than it is to PM&amp;C.</p> <p>Senator MURRAY—Except that a proclamation is made by cabinet, you see. It would come through the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Senator Minchin—There is no reference by the royal commissioner to treason and treachery or any of that sort of thing.</p> <p>Senator MURRAY—The royal commissioner has been asked to examine the question of criminal or other legal proceedings and whether there should be reference to relevant Commonwealth, state or territory agencies. It is quite apparent that there are potential breaches of the Corporations Law and of the Criminal Code. The maximum penalty that I could find is a potential for imprisonment for 10 years for anyone who would get to that level. But the more serious public allegation is that these people essentially assisted the enemy. People are accused of doing that and therefore I was interested in the treason and treachery issues. My reading of those is that they do not apply because there was not a proclamation. So my question is: when would there ever be a proclamation?</p> <p>Senator Minchin—It is a legal question and you broadened that out to a general question about what circumstances would lead to the proclamation. I will endeavour to get you an answer.</p>	Answer received 13/4/06
PM21	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 107 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Senator Minchin, what was the role, if any, of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in the appointments of people to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq? Did the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have any role in the appointment process?</p> <p>Mr Borrowman—I am afraid I am going to have to take that on notice.</p>	Received 19/5/06



QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM22	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 107-108 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—Is anyone in the department able to inform me about what role, if any—and again I expect that the lead or key agency in this is the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet had in relation to the approach of Ambassador Thawley to the chairman of the US Senate investigations committee. That occurred in late 2004, as you would be aware. Is there someone at the table or elsewhere in the department who could let us know if there were any departmental processes involved in that approach?</p> <p>Dr Morauta—Again, we will see if we can get information as quickly as possible about any possible PM&amp;C role.</p>	Received 19/5/06
PM23	PM&C	Faulkner	F&PA 110 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—The difficulty you have with a situation like this, Chair, is that an answer may well come back from the department saying, ‘No, there has been no involvement at all,’ or ‘Yes, there has been.’ In the case of an answer in the affirmative that comes back, the difficulty is that with this situation—as you would appreciate, Minister, I hope—there is no capacity to form questions that logically follow through from an answer that indicates that there has been some departmental involvement. I cannot second-guess this. With a question being taken on notice the only reasonable way these sorts of circumstances can be dealt with is to ask the department if there has been any such involvement. This is firstly in relation to the appointment of Mr Flugge and Mr Long to the Coalition Professional Authority. I asked the department to detail its role in this instance. It is also in relation to the question I asked about former Ambassador Thawley. I do not know what the answer will be, but if it does come back in the affirmative, again, there is no chance for the committee or committee members, including me, to ask appropriate follow-through questions. That is a highly unsatisfactory situation. All I can really do in this circumstance is place on notice a question, if the answer is in the affirmative, asking the department to detail what that involvement is.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—As I have said, Chair, I will place my question on notice in a form that requests of the department that the detail of any relationship that may have existed in these matters be provided to the committee.</p>	Received 19/5/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM24	PM&C	Ray	F&PA 112 13/02/06	<p>Senator ROBERT RAY—Let me rephrase the question. I do not have to know the actual numbers, but what I would like taken on notice is how many crucial people have left—not their names—when they joined that section of the department, when they left and where they went to, so we can get an appraisal of the sort of turnover and why this is happening. There may be very valid reasons, and I think it will help our analysis.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Dr Morauta—Yes: how many people had moved. We will get that answer on notice.</p>	Received 19/5/06
PM25	PM&C	Evans	F&PA 112-113 13/02/06	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—I understand that PM&amp;C has circulated new advice on compliance with FOI requests or there have been new guidelines issued. Is that correct or not?</p> <p>Ms Belcher—Not new guidelines. We urge the divisions to take FOI seriously. From time to time we remind people of deadlines and the like. But I am not aware of any new guidelines.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—I understand that there was some document circulated under the signature of Dr Shergold. Is that what you mean by the reminder?</p> <p>Ms Belcher—There has been nothing in recent times. I would need to check when we last put something out.</p>	Answer received 13/4/06
PM26	ONA	Faulkner	F&PA 126 13/02/06	<p>Senator FAULKNER—But let us get back to the search of documents that you initiated, Mr Varghese. On the process issue, when did you do that, Mr Varghese?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—It is one of the least controversial questions that has been asked. I asked Mr Varghese: when did you actually do this?</p> <p>Mr Varghese—I do not have the precise date in my head but it would have been several weeks ago.</p> <p>Senator FAULKNER—Fair enough. You might take that question on notice for us, but 'several weeks ago' is helpful.</p>	Answer received 3/11/06

QON No.	Department / agency	Senator	Hansard reference	Question	Comments
PM27	OMB	Evans	F&PA 133 13/02/06	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—How long ago did you send it to the department?</p> <p>Ms Durkin—I am not sure of the exact date but the department response is due on Friday.</p> <p>Prof. McMillan—It would have been about the third week in January, I think, that it went to the department.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Perhaps you could take that on notice. You think that it is supposed to be responded to by the end of this week?</p> <p>Prof. McMillan—Yes.</p>	Received 29/3/06
PM28	OMB	Evans	F&PA 135 13/02/06	<p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—Are you able to make those quarterly reports available now?</p> <p>Prof. McMillan—I am quite happy to go back and look at what is in the reports. In principle, I cannot see any problem with that.</p> <p>Senator CHRIS EVANS—I would appreciate that. If you could take that on notice and provide them, that would be great.</p> <p>Prof. McMillan—Yes. I can take that on notice to do.</p>	Received 29/3/06
PM29	ANAO	Bishop	F&PA 137 13/02/06	<p>Mr McPhee—We would build the capacity if required. We certainly do not at the moment, but with some adjustment we could do it. I forget our costing of the proposal, but my memory is that it was only around \$1 million or thereabouts per year.</p> <p>Mr Hawley—I think it was built up over the years, so we had a learning process to make sure we understood, then we had a static phase, and then it dropped down as we got to know the processes well. I am afraid that I do not have the actual numbers.</p> <p>Senator MARK BISHOP—Do you mind taking on notice how much you would require? It would presumably be a four-year cycle, a four-year commitment.</p> <p>Mr McPhee—It would build in the first year and, we presume, would become ongoing.</p> <p>Senator MARK BISHOP—Mr Hawley, would you mind taking that on notice and providing us with the evidence—</p> <p>Mr Hawley—I will.</p> <p>Senator MARK BISHOP—of what figure of additional resources you had requested of government to carry out both of those recommendations. Thanks for that.</p>	Answer received 15/3/06

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Department / agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Hansard reference</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>PM30</b>	ANAO	Sherry	F&PA 145 13/02/06	Senator SHERRY—The Wheat Board has been in the media a great deal recently. When did the Audit Office last do a performance audit of the government wheat authority that supposedly oversees the Wheat Board? Senator Abetz—That is the Wheat Export Authority. Senator SHERRY—Yes. Mr McPhee—I would need to take that on notice. I do not recall one. As you are aware, I have not worked in the Audit Office continuously.	Answer received 8/3/06
<b>PM31</b>	PM&C	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 10/4/06
<b>PM32</b>	ANAO	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/3/06
<b>PM33</b>	APSC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 22/05/06
<b>PM34</b>	NWC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 23/05/06
<b>PM35</b>	ONA	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 3/11/06
<b>PM36</b>	OMB	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 2/11/06
<b>PM37</b>	IGIS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 14/3/06
<b>PM38</b>	GG	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 18/4/06
<b>PM39</b>	PM&C	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 30/3/06
<b>PM40</b>	ANAO	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 1/3/06
<b>PM41</b>	APSC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 22/05/06
<b>PM42</b>	NWC	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 23/05/06
<b>PM43</b>	ONA	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 3/11/06
<b>PM44</b>	OMB	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 2/11/06
<b>PM45</b>	IGIS	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 14/3/06

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Department / agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Hansard reference</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>PM46</b>	GG	Ludwig	Written	Attached	Answer received 18/4/06
<b>PM47</b>	APSC	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 22/05/06
<b>PM48</b>	APSC	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 22/05/06
<b>PM49</b>	APSC	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 22/05/06
<b>PM50</b>	APSC	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 22/05/06
<b>PM51</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 6/4/06
<b>PM52</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 10/4/06
<b>PM53</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 12/02/07
<b>PM54</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 3/4/06
<b>PM55</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 10/4/06
<b>PM56</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 19/4/06
<b>PM57</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 19/04/06
<b>PM58</b>	GG	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 18/4/06
<b>PM59</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 3/4/06
<b>PM60</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 19/09/06
<b>PM61</b>	NWC	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 23/05/06
<b>PM62</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 19/09/06
<b>PM63</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 19/09/06
<b>PM64</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 6/4/06

<b>QON No.</b>	<b>Department / agency</b>	<b>Senator</b>	<b>Hansard reference</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>PM65</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 3/4/06
<b>PM66</b>	GG	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 18/4/06
<b>PM67</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 10/4/06
<b>PM68</b>	PM&C	Evans	Written	Attached	Answer received 10/4/06

Please note that answers are due on 30 March 2006

### Written QON

#### **PM31 to PM38—GENERAL QUESTION TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

1. How many grants have you issued to Hillsong Church, its associated corporations and entities? List name, price and duration of funding by department.
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#### **PM39 to PM46—GENERAL QUESTION TO ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05?
    - a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned?
  2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to...
    - a. Bring charges against the accused party
    - b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges
    - c. Return the brief for no further action
  3. Did the department or agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
    - a. If so, give details.
  4. Did the department or agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
    - a. If so, give details.
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#### **PM47—Australian Public Service Commission**

*Review of the Public Service Act 1999*

1. Can you confirm that the Commission is conducting a review of the Public Service Act?
  2. Can you confirm that your findings will be presented to Cabinet in March 2006?
  3. What was the timeline for the review?
  4. What is the process the public service commissioner's office has undertaken for the conduct of the Review?
  5. Have decisions yet been made on the range of issues that will be progressed as a result of this review?
  6. With whom have you consulted to date on the review?
  7. Can you confirm that you will not be seeking to change the intent and content of the APS values?
  8. Can you confirm that ongoing employment will remain as the explicit preferred option and that you will only be reviewing the non-ongoing provisions?
  9. How do you envisage the Review will examine the issue of Whistleblower protection?
  10. How many whistleblower related matters does the commission deal with each year? Please provide a table demonstrating the work performed by the commission related to whistleblowing each year for the past 3 years to 31 December 2005 including dates, nature of issue, agency affected and outcome of the commission's work.
  11. Will the Review be examining the issue of termination? If so, how?
  12. Are there any other machinery of government functions that will be subject to this Review?
  13. Will the review be examining either the functions of the commissioner or the APS code of conduct?
  14. How will the Review examine the increasing trend of Ministerial Advisers to directly approach public servants, often at junior levels, for information and advice?
  15. How does the Commission intend to educate Ministerial Advisers on the necessarily different roles and responsibilities of the political and administrative arms of government?
  16. Once the Review process is complete, does your office intend to issue a green paper or a discussion paper to canvass reaction from the community, academics, the APS, relevant unions and other key stakeholders?
  17. If not, why not?
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## **PM48—Australian Public Service Commission**

### *Future Service Delivery*

The Canberra Times of 9 December 2005 reports that the Commission is reviewing all its programs and would deliver a new suite of training, leadership and development programs over the next three years.

1. Can you please detail the plans in this regard?
  2. How do you envisage these programs will operate?
  3. How much will they cost?
  4. To whom will these training, leadership and development programs be aimed? At what APS levels?
  5. Will these programs directly address the use of 'officialese' rather than 'plain English'.
  6. How does the APSC's office intend to address the fact the Plain English Foundation has empirically measured more than 600 examples from government and has rated their readability as '*almost off the scale*' whereby "*educated readers must invest more concentration in government text than their content warrants.*"
  7. Will the review of your future programs address the issues raised in the 7/2/6 Public Sector Informant article (attached) by Prof. Stephen Bartos that highlights the fact Australia's public service is slipping when compared with other countries in our region such as Singapore and Thailand when it comes to efficiency and effectiveness?
  8. Do you support Prof. Bartos' assertions there are lessons Australia could learn from our neighbours in terms of improving public sector efficiency and effectiveness?
  9. What will the role of the Commission be in ensuring the APS doesn't become complacent when it comes to public sector reform?
  10. Is, in your view, the Commission adequately resourced to provide a leadership role in this regard?
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## **PM49—Australian Public Service Commission**

### *Statistics*

1. As at December 31, what were total staff numbers in the APS? Is this an increase or decrease from the 133, 596 staff reported at 30 June 2005?
2. Can the Commission provide us with details of numbers of AWA's being put in place across the service as at 31 December 2005? If so, please ask for details for the 17 major departments for the last 3 years.



3. Can the Commission provide us with details of performance pay arrangements being put in place across the service to 31 December 2005? [if so, ask for the following:

- How many staff have received performance pay by agency?
- What levels are those staff at?
- What is the gender breakdown?
- When are performance bonuses paid?]

4. As at 30 June 2005, indigenous employment in the AP stood at 2.2%. Is the rate of indigenous employment continuing to decline? What was the rate of indigenous employment at 31 December 2005? Does the Commissioner hold a view as to why the rate of indigenous employment is so low? How is the Commission going to now address declining indigenous employment in the APS? I also note you have not set targets for indigenous employment. Why not?

5. The recent State of the Service report identified that bullying is on the rise with 17% of APS employees saying they had been bullied or harassed – a 2% increase over the last financial year. Does the Commission have an explanation as to why bullying and harassment is on the increase. What does the Commission intend to do to address the problem?

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#### **PM50—Australian Public Service Commission**

##### *Consultancies*

1. What services were provided for the following consultancies and for what purposes were these contracts let?

- Palm consulting at a cost of \$22,467 to assist with national workshops
  - Austrategies Consulting at a cost of \$11,200 to provide emotional intelligence training
  - DHC Operations at a cost of \$25,468 to provide the venue for a Ministerial conversation? What was this Ministerial conversation?
  - Rob Brennan and Associates at a cost of \$18,590 to provide facilitation for "Leadership at the Bay"
  - Mental Nutrition at a cost of \$14,828 for program delivery.
-

**PM51—APEC Taskforce**

1. As at now, provide a breakdown of the numbers employees in the APEC Taskforce, showing classification, ongoing/temporary status?
  2. What is the total cost to date for the Taskforce, separately identifying employee costs, accommodation costs, capital/equipment costs and other administration costs?
  3. Given the office space leased in Sydney, provide the average square metres per employee available in that accommodation for the current number of employees?
- 

**PM52—New building for the Department**

1. What was the value of the contract for the construction of the new building? When was this signed?
  2. Has there been any variation to the value of that contract since its signing?
  3. To date how much has been spent on the construction of the new building?
  4. What will be the floor area of the new building?
  5. What is the floor area of the Department's current building?
  6. How many employees will be housed in the new building?
  7. What is the planned completion date for the new building?
  8. What was the value of the contract for the fit-out of the new building? When was this signed? If there was more than one contract please include a list indicating their value and the date of signing.
  9. Has there been any variation to the value of that contract since its signing?
  10. To date how much has been spent on the fit-out of the new building?
  11. Will the Department be disposing of furniture, prior to moving to the new building? If so how will this occur and how much furniture will be disposed of?
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**PM53—Cabinet Implementation Unit**

1. How many projects is the CIU currently monitoring?
  2. Can a list of those projects be provided?
  3. Can a list of the relevant agencies for each project be provided?
  4. How many of those projects are currently assessed as a 'green light'?
  5. How many of those projects are currently assessed as an 'amber light'?
  6. How many of those projects are currently assessed as a 'red light'?
  7. What is the total budget for these projects?
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**PM54—Government Communications Unit**

1. Has there been any change in the last six months to the staffing or budgetary profile of the GCU?
2. If so, what changes have occurred?
3. What was the budget for the GCU for the year 2004-05?
4. What is the budget for the GCU for the year 05-06?
5. How many staff members does GCU currently have?
6. At what APS levels are they employed?
7. Are they employed on AWA's and do their salary packages contain performance pay or bonus provisions?
8. On what basis are these performance pay or bonus provisions paid?
9. What are the travel, mobile phone, IT, computer costs associated with the GCU? Please provide information on these costs for the last 3 financial years and the six months to 31 December 2006.
10. Have there been any permanent public servants from other Departments seconded to the GCU during this period? If so, provide details.

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**PM55—Advertising – Medicare**

1. Has the Government approved funding for an advertising campaign on Medicare for 2006?
2. If so what is the approved budget for the campaign?
3. On what date did the MCGC meet to decide this level of expenditure?
4. When is the campaign due to start? When will it end?
5. What is the aim of the campaign? What consumer behaviour does the campaign aim to change or influence?
6. Who will be doing the creative work on the campaign?
  - a) Was this work publicly tendered or select tendered?
  - b) Which companies tendered?
  - c) When did they pitch?
  - d) Did the MCGC view these pitches?
  - e) Were they paid pitches?
7. How much have you spent on this campaign to date?
8. How will you benchmark the success of this campaign?
9. Will you be tracking the effectiveness of the advertising on a daily basis as was the case with the IR campaign? Who gets these reports?

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**PM56—New record keeping guidelines**

1. Can you confirm that PM&C has circulated new advice on record keeping within the APS, including guidance on the retention of filenotes, diaries and other papers?
2. To whom was this document circulated and when?
3. Who approved the new guidelines?
4. Can a copy of these new guidelines be provided? If not why not?

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**PM57 & PM58—*Cultural loans to official establishments***

1. Are any artworks or items from the National Gallery of Australia, the joint house committee or the Australiana Fund currently on loan to either of the PM's official residences?
2. If so, please provide a complete list of these objects and artworks together with an indication of the source of the loan, the value of each item and the duration of the loan.
3. Are any artworks or items from the National Gallery of Australia, the joint house committee or the Australiana Fund currently on loan to the Governor General's residences?
4. If so, please provide a complete list of these objects and artworks together with an indication of the source of the loan, the value of each item and the duration of the loan.
5. Does PM&C provide insurance for any or all of this material or do you rely on the Government's own re-insurance policy?
6. Are all items on loan hung or displayed in climate controlled space?
7. How often are the public and private spaces in the residences where loaned items are displayed monitored with thermo-hydrographs to determine changes in humidity?
8. How often are these spaces tested to determine the 'lux' levels of light?
9. Do the residences where loaned items are displayed conform to recommended light levels in all spaces where items are hung or displayed?
10. Who undertakes these assessments?
11. How often is such monitoring carried out?
12. Please provide copies of thermo-hydrograph and light readings for both the Lodge and Kirribilli House?
13. Does the office of the Prime Minister have a formal policy on the display and safeguarding of paintings and other heritage items in the official residences?
14. Please provide a copy of it.  
Has any item or painting on loan to the PM or Governor General been damaged in the past five years? If so, provide details.

15. Has anything on loan to the PM or Governor General been stolen in the past five years? If so, provide details.
  16. Who chooses the items to be loaned from the Joint House Department or the NGA? Is it the PM himself or are decisions made on his behalf?
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**PM59**—*PM&C Involvement in briefing of Liberal MPs on Regional Rorts*

1. Did the Department organise a briefing for Liberal backbenches on the distribution of funding under the regional partnerships program in October last year?
  2. Who requested the briefing?
  3. Is it the role of the Prime Minister's department to provide briefings to Liberal backbenchers on specific issues/programs?
  4. On how many other occasions have Liberal backbenchers received similar briefings? Please provide a list of them including date, location, attendees and subject of the meeting.
  5. Has the Department offered similar briefings to non-Government backbenchers? If not, why not?
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**PM60**—*Water policy*

1. In relation to policy on water, what is the division of policy responsibilities between PM&C and Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and the Department of Environment & Heritage?
2. Is there an inter-departmental committee or working group to co-ordinate policy with Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and the Department of Environment & Heritage?
3. What is the role of the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Secretary, in relation to water policy? Does the Parliamentary Secretary receive briefings, or is he involved in other ways?
4. In relation to the National Water Initiative objectives in relation to "Urban Water Reform", please outline what steps have been taken to progress urban water reform?
5. How many staff are working on urban water reform? If Consultants are assisting, please detail the number of Consultants and summarise the contract they are working to?

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**PM61—Smart Water Fund**

1. Have any projects been funded under the \$1.6B Smart Water Fund? Please provide a table covering projects being funded and also those being considered. Please include timelines and targets for river and water health.
2. Where is decision making up to on applications for funding from the Smart Water Fund?
3. Was funding for the Mackay waste water recycling project from the Smart Water Fund?
4. If so, what was the funding and when was it provided?
5. Noting that a number of other projects which were announced by Prime Minister during the 2004 election (listed below), when will the other projects receive their funding?
  - Waterproofing Adelaide,
  - Water efficiency in Sydney housing developments;
  - Irrigation channels in the Wimmera-Mallee (Vic), Channel Distribution Efficiency Program (Qld) & Harvey Water (WA);
  - Channel control technology in Macalister River (Vic);
  - Bundaberg groundwater project.
6. What stage is analysis of and consultation regarding the projects up to?
7. Are the relevant groups and State Governments being consulted?
8. Are projects being funded under the \$1.6B Smart Water Fund are being assessed on a competitive basis?
9. How are the Auditor General's concerns about the NHT being factored into the handling of the \$2B of water spending?
10. Are there measurable environmental quality targets?
11. Is there a regional delivery model or any delivery model?
12. Given the National Water Standards program has a total value of \$200 million over 5 years, how many projects does PM&C expect be funded?
13. What measures is PM&C putting in place to ensure project quality control and accountability for expenditure under the National Water Standards program?

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**PM62—Water Recycling**

1. Noting that both the Prime Minister & his Parliamentary Secretary have said they support water recycling and the Parliamentary Secretary has stated he “believed it was safe to introduce into the drinking water stream”, what is the Federal Government’s policy on recycled water for use in urban areas?
2. What is the policy and funding decision making process for proposals such as those from Toowoomba Council?
3. If the local community appears divided and the relevant local Council strongly supports it, what assessments does the Federal Government make in deciding whether to co-fund it?
4. Given NWI objective 6 in relation to urban water reform, if the science shows recycled water is healthy and safe, what other considerations are being made?
5. Is PM&C involved in any way in the assessment as to whether funding will be provided for Toowoomba Council’s recycled water proposal? If so, what is that involvement? Please provide details.

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**PM63—Murray River**

1. How much funding has the Federal Government allocated over the past three years to increase environmental flows into the Murray River?
2. Has any additional water flowed into the Murray as a result of this funding? If not, when would you expect to see additional environmental flows, and how additional water do you expect will go into the Murray River?
3. Is PM&C aware of a report that was presented to the 26 March 2004 meeting of the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council on managing risks to shared water resources?
4. That report suggests that if a “business as usual” approach was taken to climate change, reforestation, groundwater use, farm dams, bushfires and return flows from irrigation, the potential reduction in river flows could be up to 2 000 giga-litres each year after 20 years.
5. What is the Government doing to address those risks?
6. In particular, what is the Government doing to reduce the risk of and prepare for the impact of climate change on the Murray River and our other major river systems?



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**PM64—APEC 2007 Taskforce**

1. In response to my question on notice from the Supplementary Budget estimates round (PM 73 part 4) it was indicated that \$1,175,500 was budgeted for 2005-06 for “Total IT – Personal Computers, laptops, servers etc”. Please provide an itemised breakdown of spending on these capital items, including the model and make of all items purchased, the quantity of each item purchased and the cost of each individual item and the supplier from whom each item was purchased.
2. In response to my question on notice from the Supplementary Budget estimates round (PM 73 part 4) it was indicated that \$447,401 was budgeted for 2005-06 for “Total Communication Equipment – Mobile GSM and portable radios and personal communication devices”. Please provide an itemised breakdown of spending on these capital items, including the model and make of all items purchased, the quantity of each item purchased and the cost of each individual item and the supplier from whom each item was purchased.
3. Where equipment listed in response to question 2, above, is, or will be allocated to a staff member, please indicate the APS grade of the staff member.
4. In response to my question on notice from the Supplementary Budget estimates round (PM 73 part 4) it was indicated that \$3,981,600 was budgeted for 2005-06 for “Total Office Accommodation –Includes office fit out, partitioning, TV’s, white boards, conference telephones, shredders, projectors, video conf”. Please provide an itemised breakdown of spending on all items valued at over \$100 listed against this spending including the model and make of all items purchased, the quantity of each item purchased and the cost of each individual item and the supplier from whom each item was purchased. Please also provided a full breakdown of all spending on services included in the \$3,981,600, including the name of the service provider, the cost of the service, a full description of the service provided.
5. Please provide a breakdown of current staffing numbers and classifications for all staff working in the APEC 2007 taskforce.

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**PM65 & PM66—The Lodge and Kirribilli House**

1. In response to my question on notice from the supplementary Budget estimates round, it was indicated that \$30,051 was spent on “garden maintenance contract charges” at the Lodge between 1 July and 31 October 2005. Please indicate the name of the contractor(s) involved, a breakdown of services provided in the aforementioned period and the number of hours service provided in that period.
2. In response to my question on notice from the supplementary Budget estimates round, it was indicated that \$20,466 was spent on “garden maintenance contract charges” at Kirribilli House between 1 July and 31 October 2005. Please indicate the name of the contractor(s) involved, a breakdown of services provided in the aforementioned period and the number of hours service provided in that period.

3. Please provide a breakdown of all costs for garden work, building maintenance and repairs or any items purchased for The Lodge, Kirribilli House, Admiralty House or Yarralumla which have been incurred since the 31 October 2005, and have not been outlined in response to previous estimates questions.
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**PM67—Health Task Force (the Podger Review)**

1. When was the Health Task Force formally established?
2. Please provide a copy of the terms of reference for the Task Force?
3. Please provide a description of the issues examined by the Task Force?
4. Who were the members of the Task Force and who decided on the membership?
5. Please provide a list of individuals and organisations consulted
6. When did the Task Force formally complete its work?
7. When did the Task Force provide its final report to the Department?
8. When did the Task Force provide its final report to the Prime Minister?
9. When did the Task Force provide its final report to the Minister for Health?
10. Has the Task Force provided its final report to anyone else? If so indicate who?
11. Can a copy of the final report please be provided? If not why not?
12. Can a list of the recommendations of the final report please be provided? If not why not?
13. What Departmental resources were allocated to the Task Force, including staff, administrative support, accommodation, etc?
14. Were officers from other Departments seconded onto the Task Force? If so, list the Departments which provided officers?
15. What was the total funding allocated to the Task Force?
16. What was the total cost of the Task Force?
17. Has the Government formally responded to the final report of the Task Force? If so can a copy of that response please be provided?
18. If the Government has not responded, when will the Government respond?

19. Who is responsible for responding on the Government's behalf to the Task Force's recommendations? The Minister for Health?

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**PM68—NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION**

1. What is the process to evaluate ONA's product? Who in the National Security Division undertakes the evaluation?
2. Which clients are involved in the assessment? How often is the evaluation undertaken?
3. Which ministers receive the evaluation report? Which committees receive the evaluation report?