

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Additional Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 12-13 February 2007**

**Question: PM 28**

**Outcome 1, Output 4.1**

**Topic: Official Development Assistance Expenditure and Activities**

**Direct on Notice**

**Senator Evans asked: Please provide full details of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible expenditure and activities undertaken by the Department since 2000-2001 to date.**

**Answer:** The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has not been directly responsible for expenditure that is eligible to be classified as Official Development Assistance (ODA) in any of the financial years from 2000-2001 to date. However, the Department has carried out activities with the Secretariat of Cabinet of Thailand and the Indonesian Cabinet Secretariat, State Secretariat and President's Office that are ODA-eligible and have been funded from AusAID programmes. In the ODA-eligible activities PM&C has hosted visiting officials from Thailand on three occasions and Indonesia on four occasions and provided advice on cabinet and policy coordination processes, computerised documentation systems, legislation processes and ceremonial and hospitality functions. PM&C officials have visited Thailand twice to advise on a project to computerise cabinet documentation and Indonesia on three occasions to explore possibilities for cooperation in various areas of central government processes, to discuss cabinet and legislation processes and related information technology systems, and to take part in a workshop on reform of Indonesian legislation processes. The costs of these activities, funded by AusAID, have been of the order of \$180,000 in total over the two years 2004-05 and 2005-06 in the case of the exchanges with Thailand and of the order of \$300,000 in total in 2005-06 and 2006-07 in the case of exchanges with Indonesia. A further visit by officials from Thailand is expected in 2006-07 or early 2007-08 and further exchanges with Indonesian agencies are being arranged in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

