

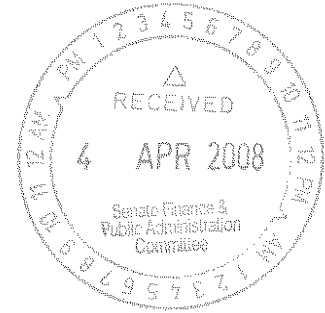
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008



Question: PM24

Outcome 1, Output 4

Topic: Code of Conduct

Hansard Page: F&PA 84

Senator Murray asked: Senator MURRAY - I understand the title is 'Ministerial register of lobbyists'. Is that correct?...

Senator MURRAY - What is the title of this thing?

Ms Belcher - We have not actually got a title that cannot be changed at this stage, because we have not got that far...

Senator MURRAY - But do you understand the point I am making?

Ms Belcher - Yes, I do, Senator. We have just been calling it 'the register of lobbyists' up till now. I suppose there could be a rare case where someone does not lobby ministers but lobbies other people in the parliament.

Senator MURRAY - Usually they lobby both.

Ms Belcher - Normally it would be both, yes. I do not think there is any fixed view on what it could be called. I can see that the title would indicate something broader, so I am happy to take that up.

Answer: An exposure draft of the Lobbying Code of Conduct has now been released for comment. It is proposed that the Register, to be set up under the Code, will be publicly available and show the names of individual lobbyists and their clients. While it is intended primarily to provide information to Ministers, their staff and public servants to allow them to establish whose interests a lobbyist represents so that informed judgments can be made about the outcomes that they are seeking to achieve, other members of the Parliament and their staff will also be able to use the Register for that purpose.