

**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: PM47**

**Outcome 1, Output 4.4**

**Topic: Advertising positions for The Lodge**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 112**

**Senator Abetz asked: Senator ABETZ-Can I ask you why the position was not advertised.**

**Senator Faulkner- I do not know that officials can provide such an explanation. But I would say to you that, in relation to child care responsibilities, obviously there are particular requirements and pre-requisites, which I am sure you would understand. Unless officials have any more information on this, I am happy to take that issue on notice. But I am sure what I have said to you will represent at least part of the response on this issue.**

**Senator ABETZ - If you can take that on notice.**

**Senator Faulkner - I am happy to...**

**Senator RONALDSON - What hours is the child carer employed for per week?**

**Senator Faulkner-We would again have to take that on notice. I suspect they may well be quite irregular hours, but I am not going to speculate on that. We will find that out for you if we are able to.**

**Answer:**

- a). All personal staff at the official residences are engaged under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 (the Act). There is no requirement under the Act to advertise vacant positions. The terms and conditions of employment for these staff are determined by officers of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet who have been authorised to do so under the Act.
- b). The child carer is employed on a 38 hour week basis.