

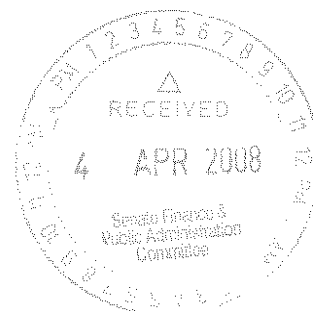
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008



Question: PM117

Outcome 1, Output 4

Topic: Employment of Ministers family

Hansard Page: Written Question

Senator Fifield asked: Has the Prime Minister given express approval to any Minister to employ any close relative or partner of a Minister in any office of any member of the Executive Government, as outlined in clause 2.18 of the Standards of Ministerial Ethics? If so, please provide a copy of the Prime Minister's written approval.

Answer: The Prime Minister's Standards of Ministerial Ethics provides that Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries must not employ close relatives of other Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries without the express permission of the Prime Minister.

As at 18 February 2008 the Prime Minister had granted one member of the Executive permission to appoint the relative of another member of the Executive. The appointment was merit-based.