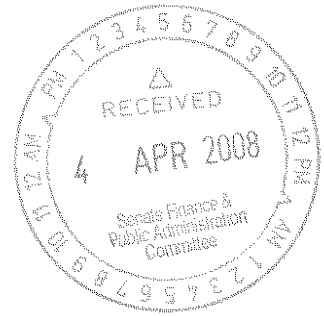


Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008



Question: PM13

Outcome 1, Output 4

Topic: Code of Conduct

Hansard Page: F&PA 52

Senator Ronaldson asked: Senator RONALDSON - Thank you. I will ask the further question: if it is not done via the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act, would you agree with Verona Burgess, and apparently the Australian Public Service, that it will not be worth the paper it is written on?...

Senator RONALDSON-When you say 'not necessarily', under what circumstances do you think it might be necessary?

Senator Chris Evans - I think I gave the answer. I am not sure of the alternatives that may be available for establishing the code of conduct, but that would obviously be advice to government as to what our alternatives are. I am not sure whether the amendment to the act as suggested by the journalist is the only option. As to whether or not that is the option we will be pursuing, as I say, I do not know but I will take it on notice for you.

Senator RONALDSON - When you say 'not necessarily', under what circumstances do you think it might be necessary?

Answer: See answer to PM12.