

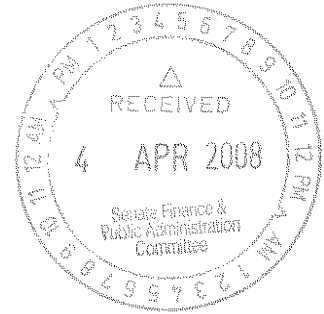
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008



Question: PM15

Outcome 1, Output 4

Topic: Code of Conduct

Hansard Page: F&PA 56

Senator Minchin asked: Senator ABETZ-The question is: how do we interpret this document? If it is to mean anything, we must have some understanding of it as to how it is going to be implemented. If you are not able to assist us, would you be kind enough to take that on notice for us as to whether the implementation, section 7.4-was it-only applies to directorships or to the whole standard...

Ms Belcher-It is the word 'required' that is causing me problems, so I will take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ-Just to make it clear, it says: in directorships ... on the advice of the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Then there is another such reference in 2.5 on the advice. What we want to know is whether that is just discrete to the issue of directorships-that he would have to get this advice. Let us ask this question as well: is he required to seek the advice of the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet even on directorship issues? It seems very unclear. If you can take those questions on notice, I would be much obliged.

Answer: The Prime Minister may seek the advice of the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on any matter relating to the *Standards of Ministerial Ethics*. In relation to directorships (paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 of the *Standards*), the Prime Minister will seek the advice of the Secretary.