

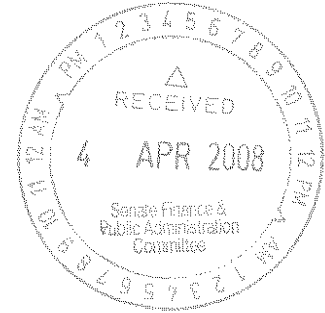
**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Additional Estimates Hearings 18 February 2008**



**Question: PM38**

**Outcome 1, Output 4.4**

**Topic: New Year's Eve Function**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 103**

**Senator Ronaldson asked: Dr Morauta - The method we use for reimbursement, and we have used it for some time, is that if the costs would have been incurred anyway in the normal running of the house they are not reimbursable, but if there are additional costs above the normal running cost of the house they are reimbursable. That is the principle that has been used for some time.**

**Senator ABETZ - So that has included the chef?**

**Senator RONALDSON - Just so I am clear on this, what guidelines were to be put in place as a normal requirement? Is it two, four or eight people? What is the normal requirement? If you say the normal requirement for a chef is to cook for 100 people, then they got away scot-free, didn't they? What are the criteria for 'normal' requirements?**

**Senator Chris Evans - We could perhaps take that on notice...**

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet determined that salary payable for any hours worked outside the full-time Chef's standard shift on New Year's Eve would be considered to be beyond 'the normal running cost' of the residence.

The costs for all the hours worked beyond the end of the Chef's normal shift on 31 December 2007 were reimbursed by the Prime Minister.