

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 23-27 February 2009

Question: PM51a-h

Outcome 1, Output 2

Topic: Community Response Taskforce

Hansard Page: Written Question

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April

Senator Bernardi asked:

- a. On 28 January, the Government announced that it will appoint a Community Response Taskforce 'to advise on responses to economic hardships caused by the economic downturn.' How many people will be on this Taskforce?**
- b. How will they be selected?**
- c. The media release states that the first meeting of the Taskforce will take place in 'late February or early March.' Has a more specific date been set yet?**
- d. Where will the meeting take place?**
- e. Will the Taskforce be holding regular meetings throughout the year? How regular will these be?**
- f. Will any information be available to the public about the advice given to Government by the Taskforce?**
- g. What is the Budget for the Taskforce?**
- h. Do members receive remuneration?**

Answer:

- a. The Task Force will comprise fifteen members (including two Australian Social Inclusion Board members as ex-officio). People with expert knowledge on relevant issues may be invited to meetings as required.
- b. The Deputy Prime Minister appointed Task Force members from within the community sector according to their involvement in managing the social impact.
- c. The first meeting took place on 3 March 2009.
- d. The first meeting took place in Melbourne.
- e. The Task Force will meet bi-monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for 23 April 2009.
- f. Information about the Task Force will be available on the Social Inclusion Website.
- g. Task Force members will be reimbursed for travel and incidentals.
- h. No.