

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010

**Question: PM14**

**Topic: COAG - CRC recruitment - input from states**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 8 February 2010 pp60**

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**Senator PAYNE-There is no need to apologise. I am very definitely learning in this space. Can you advise who makes the final decisions in relation to selection of candidates? Is there any input from the states in relation to that process given the nature of the CRC?**

**Ms Beauchamp-I will have to take that on notice.**

**Answer:** The secretariat of the COAG Reform Council is established as an administrative unit within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Recruitment of staff to the secretariat is therefore undertaken in accordance with the *Public Service Act 1999*. Staff engagements are therefore approved by the Secretary of the Department or by other senior executives under a delegation of powers made by the Secretary under the Act. Non-SES staff are approved for engagement under a delegation by the Head of Secretariat (in her capacity as an SES Band 3). The States and Territories are therefore not involved in the staff selection process. As a matter of practice however, the selection panels used in the recruitment of SES staff have included a senior executive from a State.

The Commonwealth and the States and Territories are involved in the appointment of the members of the COAG Reform Council (as distinct from the staff of its secretariat).