

**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: PM27c**

**Topic: Community Cabinet - Meetings with ministers**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 8 February 2010 pp80**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010**

**Number of pages: 2**

**Senator RYAN-In that case, could I also have-and I assume that you would have this available, given that the advertisement for the Ballarat one refers to applications to go to the community cabinet secretariat-a list of who the ministers have met at each of the community cabinets, including the Prime Minister?**

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS-Sorry-a list of the individuals?**

**Senator RYAN-Individuals or organisations.**

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS-But an individual meeting a minister at a community cabinet may not have ever envisaged that their meeting a minister was going to become a matter of public record. I think there are some privacy issues we might want to explore here first.**

**[...]**

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS-I am just questioning whether there are some privacy issues that PM&C would need to be mindful of before specifying the names of individuals who might have met with a minister.**

**Senator RYAN-There are also some transparency issues, because I would like to know who is transacting business with the government. I am not asking for details of the meeting; I am asking for who met whom, not for summaries or minutes of the meetings.**

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**Ms Beauchamp-Can I take that on notice, but we would have to seek the permission of those people who attended each community cabinet one-on-one meeting? [...]**

**Answer:** People attending Community Cabinet meetings are advised that the information they provide to PM&C will be used only for Community Cabinet purposes. In these circumstances, the individual's consent would need to be sought for any further disclosure and, as there have been over 1200 one-on-one meetings to date, this would require an unreasonable diversion of the department's resources.