

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: PM28a-d

Topic: Public Opinion Research - Use and availability to ministers

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 8 February 2010 pp80-81

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Senator RYAN-[a]Does the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet commission or otherwise pay for any form of research into public opinion, whether it be qualitative or quantitative, from the community, subgroups within the community or organisations within the community? It is a very broad question and intentionally so.

Ms Beauchamp-It is a very broad question and I would have to take that on notice. Your question around qualitative research?

Senator RYAN-[b]Qualitative and quantitative research into community attitudes or attitudes, for example, of an industry sector or of a sector of volunteers. I am interested in whether the department undertakes any such research. I would suspect that it would but I will wait for the answer. [c]If it does, I would appreciate the amount paid and what the objective of undertaking the project was-for example, to ascertain community opinions on health reform, climate change or to ascertain industry sector views on a car industry policy.

Further-as you have to take us on notice-[d]whether such research is ever made available to ministerial officers or to ministers or whether it is entirely used solely within the department for its own purposes. I understand that is a broad question, but I think you understand it is a reasonably broad question.

Ms Beauchamp-I will take that on notice, but if we had commissioned specific pieces of research and entered into contracts, those contracts would be listed on AusTender.

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Answer:

Yes the Department has commissioned research. Please refer to the following table:

Provider	Report description/objective	Amount Paid	Made available to minister(s)
Open Mind (CN202524)	The aim of the study was to develop an understanding of how different groups of Australians respond to the issues surrounding social inclusion.	\$79,964	Yes.