

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: PM82a-c

Topic: Referendum questions

Type of Question: Written

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The Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, was reported as saying in the AFR on 20/1/2010 that the PM&C is considering 4 potential referendum questions relating to a republic, recognition of indigenous Australians, local government and cooperative federalism.

- a) What is the cost of the investigation into a possible referendum?
- b) Has any investigation been made into the additional costs of holding a referendum?
- c) If so, what are the projected costs of such a referendum?

Answer:

- a) Any such work has been undertaken within existing resources.
- b) Some work has been undertaken on possible additional costs associated with holding of a referendum.
- c) The costs of a referendum would depend on factors such as whether the referendum was to be conducted in conjunction with or separately from a general election, whether the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* was to apply or be amended as was done for the 1999 referendum, and the number of questions to be asked.