

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: PM89

Topic: NAA – closure of offices

Type of Question: written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator Bob Brown

- a) When did the government inform the NAA that it had to cut its funding annually by \$1.4 million from 2010 to 2014? Did the NAA have warning of the extent of the budget cuts?
- b) How many options were canvassed to meet the budget cuts? What were these options?
- c) Did the NAA inform the government that it would have to close state and territory offices to meet the budget cuts before it made the announcement to staff?
- d) On what grounds was it decided that Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory should be closed rather than other state or territory offices?
- e) What will happen to the NAA collections in:
 - Tasmania
 - South Australia
 - Northern Territory
- f) Were discussions held with the prospective host bodies/organisations for the NAA collections before the decision was made to close the three offices?
- g) How much of the NAA collection is available online?

Answer: On 23 February 2010 the Cabinet Secretary, Senator the Hon Joe Ludwig announced that Archives will maintain a local presence in each state and territory. Instead of closing the Archives offices in Darwin, Adelaide and Hobart they will remain open until a permanent solution involving co-location with a local organisation has been found.