

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 13-16 Feb 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** Australia Day Function - Senior staff on leave

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 9

**Type of Question:** FPA, P63, 13 February

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 30 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator Chris Evans: I understand a couple of the people you refer to were actually not working that day on the public holiday?

Senator RYAN: Okay, if that is the case.

Senator Chris Evans: so some of those conspiracy theories will not hold water because those people were actually on leave. I will get you an answer but I understand a couple of the senior staff actually took the day off as a holiday.

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is advised that the Prime Minister's Director of Communications and Senior Press Secretary were not working and were not in Canberra on 26 January 2012 due to the Australia Day public holiday.