

**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:** 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

**Topic:** Prime Minister's letter regarding the flood appeal and task force

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 30

**Type of Question:** FPA, P82, 13 February

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator RYAN: When I wrote to your office on Friday afternoon I flagged that I would ask some questions about the letter the Prime Minister wrote to Australia's top 100 companies about the flood appeal and getting involved in the flood task force. It was faxed through. I am happy if it can be provided later this evening, or something. I was after both a copy of the letter that the Prime Minister wrote-obviously with the details removed-and also a list of the companies to which the Prime Minister wrote the letter.

Dr de Brouwer: We are not aware of it, Senator. We will have to take that one on notice.

**Answer:** The Prime Minister sent letters to approximately 300 companies. A copy of the Prime Minister's letter is attached.



PRIME MINISTER  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Name  
Position  
Company

Dear x

In the last week I have seen Australians contribute in their own ways to flood relief in Queensland, from picking up a shovel in a flooded house to passing around the hat in a workplace to organising sporting and cultural events as fundraisers.

The flood waters are now beginning to subside in many areas and as the immediate emergency passes the magnitude of the disaster and the task ahead is painfully clear.

Many more people and businesses have lost everything than we expected even a week ago. I am sure the eventual cost will be vast, as will the contribution by the Australian Government.

The Premier's Flood Relief Appeal has already raised well over \$50 million to help those affected by the floods. Much more will be needed. So today I have increased my Government's contribution to Premier's Flood Relief Appeal, adding \$10 million to the \$1 million I announced some days ago.

Today I am writing to a large number of Australia's leading businesses, including your own, to ask that you also contribute to the Appeal or increase your existing contribution. While the Appeal is not accepting in-kind contributions, I know there may also be ways that your company can join in the recovery effort directly. I look forward to working with you and the Queensland Government to make the most of offers of direct support.

I do believe our leading businesses have unique resources and a unique responsibility to help out now. I know many of you have already responded magnificently, but as the scale of the disaster becomes clear, it also becomes clear that Queensland needs even more of your help. Thank you for all you have already done and please continue to do everything you can to make a difference.

Julia Gillard