

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: Poker machine reform - Advice provided to the Prime Minister

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 31

Type of Question: FPA, P82, 13 February

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator RYAN: Did it flag with the Prime Minister in that advice an area of potential concern being that a substantial beneficiary of the public funds for the trial would be Labour clubs that are in turn substantial donors to the Labor Party?

[...]

Mr Ronalds: As I understand it, our usual practice is to not disclose the nature of the advice provided but simply the date and whether or not the advice was provided.

[...]

Senator RYAN: I am not asking for a copy; I am, however, asking whether that issue was flagged in the advice to the Prime Minister. I think you will appreciate the public sensitivity of this. There is \$30 million-plus going on a precommitment trial in the ACT. Major beneficiaries of that trial are the clubs that are in turn major donors to the party of which the Prime Minister is a member. I do not hear you are making a public interest immunity claim here.

[...]

Dr de Brouwer: We will have to take this one on notice. If it is going through cabinet we do not talk about the nature of the advice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not provide advice on this matter.