

**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:** 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

**Topic:** National Security Adviser

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 49

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. Why has the government made no public announcement of the appointment of Ms McCarthy as National Security Adviser, in contrast to when her predecessor in the role was appointed in 2008?
2. For how many months had this position been left vacant?

**Answer:**

1. The appointment of Dr McCarthy as National Security Adviser, an Associate Secretary at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, was announced in an email from the Secretary to all staff at the Department. This is standard practice for the appointment of senior staff at the Department, including Associate Secretaries. It is not usual for there to be a ministerial announcement for appointments to Associate Secretary positions. The appointment of Mr Lewis was an exception which arose from the announcement of the new position of National Security Adviser. His appointment as the inaugural National Security Adviser was announced by the then Prime Minister, the Honourable Kevin Rudd MP, during the National Security Statement to Parliament on 4 December 2008. The statement addressed the government's response to the Report of the Review of Homeland and Border Security conducted by Mr Ric Smith AO PSM, including the establishment of the role of the National Security Adviser.
2. The position has never been vacant. Dr McCarthy acted in the position of National Security Adviser from 29 August 2011 (when Mr Lewis took leave before commencing as Secretary of the Department of Defence on

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5 September 2011) until her appointment to the position on 3 February 2012, a period of approximately five months.