

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: CRC Chair Appointment Process

Senator: Senator Payne

Question reference number: 13

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator PAYNE: How was Mr Brumby chosen to be the chair of the COAG Reform Council? Did the department provide advice to the Prime Minister on that?

Mr Hazlehurst: Yes, the department provided advice on potential appointees to the role and then the Prime Minister made a decision.

Senator PAYNE: Can you tell us if there was a large number or a small number of potential appointees?

Mr Hazlehurst: We normally narrow it down to a manageable number of people for the Prime Minister to consider.

Senator PAYNE: Was Mr Brumby in that group that you put to the Prime Minister for consideration?

Mr Hazlehurst: I actually do not recall. I could take that on notice.

Senator PAYNE: Thank you very much. What input do the states and territories have in relation to the appointment of the chair of the CRC?

Mr Hazlehurst: The chair of the CRC is at the discretion of the Commonwealth.

Senator PAYNE: I understand that, but do they have any input?

Mr Hazlehurst: I do not believe they had input on this occasion.

Senator PAYNE: Have they previously had input?

Mr Hazlehurst: I do not know.

Senator PAYNE: Can you take that on notice, please?

Mr Hazlehurst: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet suggested several suitable candidates to the Prime Minister, including Mr Brumby.

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The position of Chair of the COAG Reform Council (CRC) is a Commonwealth appointment and, as such, formal consultation with the states and territories concerning the appointment is not required, and did not occur on this occasion or in the past. This is similar to the appointment requirements of the Deputy Chair of the CRC who the states appoint without consulting the Commonwealth.