

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Budget Estimates Hearings 2003-04 – 28 & 29 May 2003

Question: F48

Outcome 1, 2 & 3

Topic: Activities of the Government Members Secretariat

Hansard Page: F&PA 427

Senator Ray asked:

Senator ROBERT RAY—With regard to the government members secretariat, you are responsible for their resourcing but not their activities—is that right?

Senator Abetz—Yes.

Senator ROBERT RAY—Who is responsible for their activities that can be scrutinised by this committee or any other committee of parliament?

Senator Abetz—I am not sure of that, but it is not within my portfolio.

Senator ROBERT RAY—Whose portfolio is it? Then I might be able to find out who would be responsible for their activities, not their resourcing. We know you are in charge of their resourcing.

Senator Abetz—We can have a look at that.

Answer:

Staff of the Government Members Secretariat (GMS) are employed by the Government Chief Whip. The activities of staff employed under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are the responsibility of the Senators and Members who employ them.