

**Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

**Budget Estimates Hearing 26 May - 27 May 2008**



**Question: PM44**

**Outcome 1, Output 2.1**

**Topic: Grounds for the rejection of the nomination of Mal Brough**

**Hansard Page: F&PA 26**

**Senator Minchin asked: I am just trying to determine whether the nomination of Mr Mal Brough, the former minister and former member for Longman, was rejected by the government on the grounds of him being an ex-member of parliament or on the grounds that he was not a suitable appointee to the commission for other reasons. In other words, was a decision made that no ex-member of parliament would be eligible, thereby excluding Mr Brough by definition, or was it more the case that Mr Brough was excluded for other reasons?**

**Ms Wilson-I am not going to answer that question. I do not know the answer to that.**

**Senator MINCHIN-So you do not know whether a decision was made that no former members of parliament should be on the commission. If you do not, can you get me an answer to that question?**

**Ms Wilson-I can take that on notice.**

**Answer: Refer to the Prime Minister's letter to the Leader of the Opposition on 09 May 2008, which states "it is important that the Working Group be kept above party politics and therefore free of past and present politicians of either persuasion."**