

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: PM45

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: Criterion for selection to National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing

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Senator Minchin asked: I am curious as to why the nomination of Mr Warren Mundine, the ex-National-President of the Australian Labor Party, was accepted but the nomination of Mr Mal Brough, the former minister, was not accepted. I wonder what criteria exactly were applied. If there was a criterion that former members of parliament were not to be eligible, why did that not include former presidents of Australian political parties? Or was a distinction distinctly drawn between former members of parliament and former national presidents of Australian political parties-that one would be acceptable and one not?

Ms Wilson-I will also have to take that question 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."