

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2009

**Question: PM23**

**Outcome 1, Output 5**

**Topic: Community Cabinet - conversations with the member for La Trobe**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 25 May p88**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009**

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator RONALDSON-What were the nature and extent of the conversations with the member for La Trobe, for example, for the community cabinet that was held last week?**

**Answer:** In relation to the Community Cabinet meeting held in Emerald, Victoria, on 19 May, the Acting Deputy Secretary Governance of PM&C wrote to the Member for Latrobe, Mr Jason Wood, advising of the meeting and offering himself as a point of contact to facilitate Mr Wood's attendance. That letter was both faxed and posted to Mr Wood's electorate office on 29 April 2009.

In the absence of response from Mr Wood or his office, a member of the Secretariat rang Mr Wood's electorate office on the afternoon of 6 May to confirm that they had received the letter, and was advised that they had and that Mr Wood was working out his availability. The Secretariat member took the opportunity to describe how a Community Cabinet meeting operates. He also noted that there was no requirement for Mr Wood to register, and that the Secretariat would facilitate his entry to the meeting, but that it would be advisable for any of his staff attending to register. Subsequently on 8 May, Mr Wood sent an e-mail to the Prime Minister in support of a constituent's request to have a ministerial meeting and apologising that he would not be attending himself.