

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: PM41a-b

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: National Broadband Network meetings

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 25 May p117

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

Number of pages: 1

PM41a:

Senator BERNARDI-A similar question: did the Prime Minister meet with the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy outside of a cabinet meeting or cabinet subcommittee meeting to discuss the NBN between 1 December and 7 April?

Mr Mrdak-I am not sure the department can assist in relation to that.

Senator Faulkner-You could take that on notice and ask the Prime Minister. I would be a little surprised if he did not but I do not know. That is a very long period of time to not have a discussion with his minister.

PM41b:

Senator BERNARDI-...Mr Mrdak, I am interested in whether PM&C provided briefing material for these meetings.

Mr Mrdak-Again, I would need to check that and come back to you, if you do not mind.

Answer: Yes. The Prime Minister had meetings with the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy during this period about a range of issues, including the NBN.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet did not prepare briefs for the Prime Minister for these meetings.