

**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: PM48**

**Outcome 1, Output 1**

**Topic: COAG Reform Council - staff on secondment from state governments**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA p24**

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator RYAN—And the head of the secretariat reports to whom?**

**Mr Mrdak—She reports to the CRC chair and the CRC.**

**Senator RYAN—I would also be interested in whether or not there were any members of that secretariat who were on secondment from state governments.**

**Mr Mrdak—I will take that on notice. I think there were some officers initially in the setup on secondment from state governments until the secretariat was fully formed, but I will take that on notice and come back to you.**

**Answer:**

The Executive Councillor and Head of Secretariat, Ms Mary Ann O'Loughlin, is accountable to the Chairman of the COAG Reform Council for the substantive business of the council and its secretariat; and to the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for administrative, staffing and legal matters (and in all other respects in her capacity as a Deputy Secretary of the department and as a member of the Australian Public Service).

The staff of the secretariat has not comprised any secondees from state governments. The secretariat now has 17 permanent staff (some of which are yet to commence their employment with the secretariat). Eight of these, including the Deputy Head of Secretariat, have had significant experience in state government positions.