

**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: PM66**

**Outcome 1, Output 3**

**Topic: Did the ONA seek to resolve difference of views**

**Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 26 May p58**

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Senator TROOD-...Finally, assuming that there was a difference of view here between the agencies and the department of defence and indeed the Prime Minister, did the Office of National Assessments seek to resolve this difference of views for the purposes of preparing the defence white paper?**

**Answer:**

Mr Varghese directly answered this question on Tuesday, 26 May 2009 (F&PA p116 Ref No.12036 refers). His response is set out below:

“While I am not going to go into the details of what ONA would have provided the government by way of assessment, I can say that there is nothing in the final text of the White Paper in relation to strategic judgments with which I disagree.”