

(PDFBUDGET ESTIMATES 2009–10 (May 2009))**Questions on Notice index—Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio** (excluding the Department of Climate Change).

Answers to QON taken during the Budget Estimates hearing, or written QON submitted thereafter, are due on 10 July 2009.

QON No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Hansard Reference	Question	Comments/Answer received
PM1	OOSGG	Ronaldson	25 May p51	Senator RONALDSON —Can you provide the committee with an itemised account of the costs incurred by the Governor-General and her entourage during this trip, including amounts expended on transportation, accommodation, food, gifts and miscellaneous expenditures? I am happy for you to take that on notice.	10/7/09
PM2	OOSGG	Forshaw	25 May p52	Senator FORSHAW —Mr Brady, I think some time ago when we started on this matter—and I think on, at least, one other occasion—you started to indicate, in response to Senator Ronaldson’s questions, that the role undertaken by the current Governor-General in representing Australia was a lot different from past roles. I want to explore that with you. Is the terminology ‘representing the government and the people of Australia’ terminology that has, in the past, been applied to the role of the Governor-General whilst overseas? Mr Brady —I would characterise it as ‘she represents Australia’. Senator FORSHAW —I am asking you about, particularly, the use of the term ‘government and the people of Australia’. Mr Brady —I would have to check.	10/7/09
PM3	OOSGG	Forshaw	25 May p54	Mr Brady —Absolutely. The Governor-General met heads of state and heads of government. She referred to Australia’s commitment multilaterally and, in the course of those conversations, the UNSC bid was made mention of. But the overwhelming part of the trip was spent in community functions which she was the patron of or in developing business and people-to-people links. Senator FORSHAW —Will you provide a list? Mr Brady —I will provide detail. Senator FORSHAW —And in that can you list the names of those heads of state and government leaders and other dignitaries that she met with.	10/7/09
PM4	OOSGG	Abetz	25 May p64	Senator ABETZ —If there were to be another such meeting, are you able to tell us whether the request would be made direct to the heads of department or whether it would be made via the minister’s office? Mr Brady —I hear what you are telling me, Senator. Let me think.	10/7/09

				Senator ABETZ —All right. If you could take that on notice.	
PM5a	OOSGG	Ronaldson	25 May p65	Senator RONALDSON —When was the Governor-General’s discussion with the Leader of the Opposition? How long prior to the investiture ceremony was it? Mr Brady —I would have to go back and look at the papers— Senator RONALDSON —Will you take that on notice?	10/7/09
PM5b	OOSGG	Ronaldson	25 May p65	Senator RONALDSON —Mr Turnbull was never actually officially advised of the nature of the ceremony; is that correct? Mr Brady —The Leader of the Opposition was given the rightful courtesy of being the only person contacted directly by the Governor-General. Senator RONALDSON —But the nature of the ceremony was not explained to him, was it? Can you take that on notice for me. Mr Brady —Yes, I will.	10/7/09
PM6	OOSGG	Ronaldson	25 May p66	Senator RONALDSON —How many senior staff in Government House or employed by the Governor General have been replaced or have left? To give you some assistance, I am talking about senior by way of salary, perhaps the top 12 staff. Are any of those people still at Government House? Mr Brady —I will answer from memory, if I may, and then take the question on notice to be absolutely certain.	10/7/09
PM7a	OOSGG	Ronaldson	25 May p66	Senator RONALDSON —Thank you. I have a further question in relation to staffing appointments. Since the Governor General was sworn in there have been 17 new appointments; is that right? Mr Brady —Yes. Senator RONALDSON —And what level are they at? Mr Murtagh —The 17 includes Mr Fraser’s appointment. He is an SES equivalent officer. They include one executive level 2 officer. For the next levels I will need to take the question on notice because I have not brought a briefing with me. They cover a range of positions, from a base level, various gardening positions and the like, through to some senior positions.	10/7/09
PM7b	OOSGG	Ronaldson	25 May p66	Senator RONALDSON —I take it that all those positions were advertised? Mr Murtagh —Some were advertised, but they were not all advertised. Senator RONALDSON —Which ones were not advertised? Mr Murtagh —There is one position in our finance area that was not a direct advertisement. Again, I have not brought a briefing with me on that so I will need to take the question on notice.	10/7/09
PM8	OOSGG	Ronaldson	25 May p69	Senator RONALDSON —When were you advised that the former deputy would be leaving? Mr Brady —I would have to check. It was immediately he received confirmation that he had been appointed as Usher of the Black Rod. I cannot recall the date.	10/7/09
PM9	OOSGG	Ronaldson	25 May p71	Senator RYAN —Mr Brady, I have a couple of last questions. Have there been	10/7/09

				any private or family functions hosted at Government House or Admiralty House by the Governor-General? Mr Brady —Not that I am aware of. Senator RONALDSON —You are not aware of it, but will you take it on notice?	
PM10	OOSGG	Ryan	25 May p71	Senator RYAN —I would like you to also take on notice the number of occasions on which the Governor-General has hosted the Prime Minister or other ministers for dinner or similar events. Mr Brady —I will take it on notice. When you say hosted, do you mean when the Prime Minister has come to dinner? Senator RYAN —I mean when the Prime Minister has come to dinner with the Governor-General at Admiralty House or Government House.	10/7/09
PM11	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p73	Senator CORMANN —Sure, and the budget was announced on 12 May. Presumably all of the decisions were not taken in one hit, they would have been taken over a period of time. I guess the question is when was a final decision made. If you cannot answer it, either tell me you are taking it on notice or tell me you are not prepared to answer it. Senator Faulkner —It is not a question of being not prepared to answer it. As many of your colleagues would know, obviously the processes themselves of the cabinet committee, the budget processes, are subject to a final endorsement by the cabinet. I do not have it available to me here, but if you would like to know the date of the final budget cabinet I am happy to provide it to you. I do not have it in front of me.	10/7/09
PM12	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p73	Senator CORMANN —Can you provide us with a list of all the agencies that as part of the budget deliberation process were consulted on this measure? Mr Mrdak —I will take that on notice.	10/7/09
PM13	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p73	Senator CORMANN —Was there any consultation with the states and territories about the impact of this measure on public hospitals and state and territory health systems? Mr Mrdak —As a budget measure, this is, as you would appreciate, developed through the budget process. The very nature of the budget process provides limited opportunity for wide consultation in relation to certain matters. I do not know the particular answer to that. I will check. I will take it on notice.	10/7/09
PM14a	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p77	Senator CORMANN —I would like to understand whether the change reflects a change in priorities, a change in speed of implementation or a concern that things might not be progressing as fast as what might have been thought on 22 October. On the website, rather than ‘Fixing our hospitals’, the headline now is ‘Improving our hospitals’, and the section which used to talk about ‘significant progress towards implementation’ now says, ‘While immediate action is important we are	10/7/09

				now talking about developing a longterm reform plan for the health system by mid-2009.’ So ‘significant progress towards implementation’ has become ‘development of a plan’. I would have thought that ‘significant progress towards implementation’ is much more ambitious than ‘development of a plan’. This is the Prime Minister’s website on 25 May 2009, as opposed to the Prime Minister’s website on 22 October 2008. Why would that change have been made? Clearly it is a watering down of the language. It is a less ambitious target now. I understand why the target is less ambitious—we are one month away from the delivery deadline. I just want you to talk me through: when were the decisions made to make that change, who made the decisions, why were they made and are they a reflection of your being concerned that things are not progressing according to schedule when it comes to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission process? Mr Mrdak—In relation to when the changes were made to the description of the measures on the website, I will take that on notice and get back to you as soon as I can.	
PM14b	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p77	Mr Mrdak—I would presume that the changes to the text, given the timing that you mentioned, would well reflect, as Ms Cass has indicated, the substantial progress the government made in relation to the COAG outcomes late last year in relation to health and the agreements that have been reached about further work to be undertaken by jurisdictions, with the Commonwealth, going forward from those health announcements. In relation to your third point, my understanding is the health minister in the last couple of days has publicly made some statements in relation to this question of hospitals. I do not think I could add much further to what she has had to say publicly. In relation to the website changes and amendments, my presumption would be that would relate to the outcomes of the COAG work and the changed nature of the reform agenda going forward, as a result of those breakthrough NPs. I will check in relation to the website.	10/7/09
PM14c	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p77	Senator CORMANN—As you take these things on notice, can you review the different versions on the website? What I am seeking is whether you have been given any specific directions from government that would change the target from what was to be achieved by the middle of 2009—significant progress towards implementation of the reforms versus finalising a long-term reform plan for the health system?	10/7/09
PM15a	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p79	Senator CORMANN—I am pretty sure I know why the change was made. The change was made because the more ambitious target was not able to be met and so it was watered down. That is just the reality of it. Can you provide me on notice with an overview of the level of interaction there has been between the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the health department and the National Health	10/7/09

				and Hospitals Reform Commission in terms of making sure that the deadlines set by the government are being met?	
PM15b	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p79	Senator CORMANN— ... I want to get a bit more details around what ‘active interest’ means and what is being done from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s point of view to ensure that the health department and the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission meet their deadlines, bearing in mind that we are one month away from the middle of 2009 when we either should have been seeing significant progress towards implementation or should have seen the finalisation of a plan, depending on which version of the website we go by. I will leave it at that. Mr Mrdak—We will certainly take it on notice to give you more detail...	10/7/09
PM16	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p83	Senator CORMANN—So did the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, under its domestic policy output, provide advice in the budget context on the proposal to change Medibank Private into a for profit health fund? Mr Mrdak—Certainly, if the measure was being dealt with in the budget, we would have provided advice— Senator CORMANN—Can you perhaps give me a date? Mr Mrdak—If I can take that on notice then I will.	10/7/09
PM17	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p83	Senator CORMANN—Was advice provided to the Prime Minister or his office on whether a sale should also be considered? Mr Mrdak—Again, I would have to take that on notice.	10/7/09
PM18	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p83	Senator CORMANN —While you are taking things on notice, given your responsibility for whole-of government coordination of decisions, policies and strategic directions, did you ensure that the Department of Health and Ageing was consulted by central agencies in considering this decision?	10/7/09
PM19	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p84	Senator CORMANN —Thank you. Since the 2007 election, has the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ever been directed by the Prime Minister or his office that the sale of Medibank Private was totally off limits?	10/7/09
PM20	DPM&C	Cormann	25 May p84	Senator CORMANN —While you are taking things on notice, perhaps you can also tell me whether any advice has been requested by the Prime Minister or the Prime Minister’s office in relation to any sale of Medibank Private.	10/7/09
PM21	DPM&C	Ronaldson	25 May p87	Senator RONALDSON— How many staff have been allocated from within existing resources to date? Mr Mrdak—I would have to check; I think it is a relatively small team at community cabinet at this stage. We tend to draw on staff right across the department to support us on community cabinet. The total secretariat for community cabinet, which is within our cabinet division, is relatively small. As meetings are approaching, we tend to second staff from other areas of the department to assist. I will get that information for you, Senator. If you do not	10/7/09

				mind, I will check that, but I think at this stage it would be of the order of half a dozen people.	
PM22	DPM&C	Ronaldson	25 May p87	Senator RONALDSON —Do you know if community cabinets have taken place in any electorates where the electoral margin is greater than 10 per cent? Mr Mrdak —I have not had a look at the electoral margins in relation to locations. Senator RONALDSON —Would you take that on notice.	10/7/09
PM23	DPM&C	Ronaldson	25 May p88	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?	10/7/09
PM24	DPM&C	Ronaldson	25 May p88-89	Senator RONALDSON —Mr Mrdak, you will provide me with the full details of the level of engagement with the local members in relation to the electorates where those community cabinets have been held? You will provide me with information in relation to anyone within those electorates who has been contacted in relation to arrangements for the visit by the Prime Minister's office?	10/7/09
PM25	DPM&C	Ronaldson	25 May p89	Mr Mrdak —I am not aware that the Prime Minister's office has access to that database. That is a departmental system. We essentially manage the registration process. We also look to identify where there may be any issues in relation to security or the like in relation to any location, and that is work that we do with the Federal Police and state police. But those are matters which the department manages. Senator RONALDSON —So you have had no requests at all for access to that database? Mr Mrdak —Not that I am aware of. I will take that on notice but I am not aware of any request to access the database.	10/7/09
PM26	DPM&C	Abetz	25 May p96	Senator ABETZ —...I also ask you to take on notice again all the questions of PM29a-1 that I put on notice and which were not answered and then also the revised questions that were placed on notice on 12 May 2009 in relation to this matter.	10/7/09
PM27	DPM&C	Abetz	25 May p96	Senator ABETZ —And I know the Prime Minister personally takes responsibility for all the answers. Can I ask without being told of the details, this: was the answer changed from that which was provided to the Prime Minister's office by the department? I do not want to know what changes; all I want to know is whether changes were made.	10/7/09
PM28	DPM&C	Abetz	25 May p98	Senator ABETZ —This was all about an advertisement for GM Holden. I am just wondering: has Prime Minister and Cabinet undertaken any reviews or consideration of contingencies in the event that certain matters come to a negative conclusion tomorrow in the United States for GM in relation to whether they go bankrupt or not? I think it is either tomorrow or next week—it is very soon. Do we have any contingencies in place, any working group considering that unfortunate	10/7/09

				event if it were to occur? Mr Mrdak—I will take that on notice and get you some more detail, but certainly in relation to manufacturing and offshore parents there has been consideration, and the auto industry is one of those areas.	
PM29	DPM&C	Ronaldson	25 May p99	Senator RONALDSON—...Can you take on notice for me the itemised cost of all those community cabinets, please?	10/7/09
PM30	DPM&C	Ronaldson	25 May p103	Mr Mrdak—It is somewhat confusing in the PBS because the appropriation was actually made in additional estimates but was not announced at that point. But there is a forward year allocation of the \$17.9 million over five years. I would be happy to give you that breakdown on notice if that would help. We will get that breakdown to you. Senator RONALDSON—I am happy to take that on notice.	10/7/09
PM31	DPM&C	Collins	25 May p108	Senator JACINTA COLLINS—And, other than the one that Senator Ronaldson was talking about last week, has the federal member attended all of the previous ones? Mr Mrdak—That is my understanding. I think the federal member has attended. I will just check that.	10/7/09
PM32	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p111	Senator BERNARDI—Mr Mrdak, I would like to take you to the skills and responsibilities loading which is contained in the annual report. It says: Where staff are required to perform duties at a higher level over an extended period, staff may be paid a skills and responsibilities loading for taking on additional responsibilities. How many staff were paid that loading in this current financial year? Mr Mrdak—I would have to check and come back to you. I will try to do that as quickly as possible.	10/7/09
PM33	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p111	Senator BERNARDI—How big is the area? Mr Mrdak—I will seek some advice on that. It is the size of an office. I will get you the dimensions. I will come back to you in the morning with that.	26/05/2009
PM34	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p112	Senator BERNARDI—I am familiar with the room up there—not that I have ever had cause to use it myself. I am interested in how widespread these reflection rooms are amongst departments, and in particular what was the purpose or the need to establish this two years ago. Mr Mrdak—As I said, the department had the opportunity when we moved into the new building to make some space available. That would not have been the case in our former building. I am aware that some businesses and departments do provide such facilities but I will certainly seek some more details for you in relation to this one.	10/7/09
PM35	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p112	Senator BERNARDI—Yes, if you would not mind. Do you keep any records of how often it is used? There is a head shaking behind you. Mr Mrdak—It does not appear so, Senator, but I will find out what information	26/05/2009

				we can for you.	
PM36a	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p112	Senator BERNARDI—In a similar vein—we are talking about work-life balance I guess—there was an information and resource service related to work-life balance introduced in 2007-08 to help staff ‘source any type of dependent care, health or lifestyle service’. Are you familiar with that? Mr Mrdak—Yes. Senator BERNARDI—How many staff have availed themselves of that service? Mr Mrdak—We offer a range of employee assistance services. I will take that on notice if you do not mind and get you a breakdown of which of our services our staff have availed themselves of and how many people have used them.	10/7/09
PM36b	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p112	Senator BERNARDI —Thank you. Could I also have the cost of the information and the resourcing of it.	10/7/09
PM36c	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p114	Senator BERNARDI—You have talked about the success and Senator Cameron was interested in the stress reduction and benefits to the organisation. Have you seen a reduction in employee absenteeism? Mr Mrdak—I would have to check what the figures are. I think the taking of personal circumstances leave and sick leave has fallen. I will check that. ... Mr Mrdak—... We will get you the full range of the programs we provide, the numbers who are participating and what information we have in relation to correlation with leave and the like.	10/7/09
PM37	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p115	Senator BERNARDI—I have a few questions now on in relation to the national broadband network and the department’s role. When the department become aware that the NBN expert panel did not recommend a preferred tenderer? ... Mr Clively—I do not have the precise date, but the department I understand would have been made aware of that in about January. Senator BERNARDI—Was it mid-January, early January, late January? Mr Mrdak—We could come back to you with a specific date if that would be okay.	10/7/09
PM38a	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p115	Senator BERNARDI—I would appreciate that. Are you able to tell me, Mr Clively, when the department received a copy of the expert panel report? Mr Clively—No. I would have to get back to you on that.	10/7/09
PM38b	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p115	Senator BERNARDI—Are you able to tell me when the department received a copy of the ACCC report to the expert panel? Mr Clively—I am not aware of whether we have actually received a copy of that report. Senator BERNARDI—Would you be able to check for me?	10/7/09
PM39a	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p116	Senator BERNARDI —Okay. When was your advice provided?	10/7/09

				Mr Mrdak —I would have to take that on notice to get some exact details. We will take that on notice, if that is okay.	
PM39b	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p116	Senator BERNARDI —Did Prime Minister and Cabinet propose that a fibre-to-the-home national broadband network be considered as an alternative proposal? Mr Mrdak —I do not think I am in a position to provide details of the advice provided or the options canvassed, but as I say I could probably check details in relation to when the advice was provided. I would have to take on notice the extent to which I could provide details of what options and advice were provided.	10/7/09
PM39c	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p116	Senator BERNARDI —You mentioned earlier that you consulted with them or that you had given advice to Prime Minister's. But when specifically did you start discussing this with Senator Conroy's department? Mr Clively —We would have to check that date for you, but there were ongoing discussions. Senator BERNARDI —I am interested in when they commenced and when they concluded, quite frankly.	10/7/09
PM39d	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p116	Mr Mrdak —Again, as Mr Clively has indicated, we were involved in a process of providing advice along with the other central agencies—Treasury and Finance—for the government. We work very closely with those two agencies in relation to advice to the cabinet. Senator BERNARDI —This is no surprise—I am going to ask when you provided that advice. I presume you will take that on notice.	10/7/09
PM39e	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p116	Senator BERNARDI —Can you tell me when the department became aware the government would support the fibre-to-the-home proposal? Mr Mrdak —Again, I would have to seek dates. The government took a decision which led to the announcement on 7 April. I would have to take on notice the dates. There was an ongoing process of consideration of these matters by the cabinet.	10/7/09
PM40	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p117	Senator BERNARDI —I am sure I will come to them as well. I am trying to ascertain exactly what the role of your department was in this broadband proposal. Did the Prime Minister meet with any member of the expert panel between January 2009 and April 7? Mr Mrdak —Not that I am aware of. I will take that on notice if you do not mind.	10/7/09
PM41a	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p117	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	10/7/09

				period of time to not have a discussion with his minister.	
PM41b	DPM&C	Bernardi	25 May p117	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.	10/7/09
PM42	DPM&C	Trood	25 May p122	Senator TROOD—I presume there is some kind of letter of instruction or contract in relation to this setting out the terms of reference or precisely what it is that Noetic are intended to do? Mr A Campbell—There is. It was through an advertised process and a contract has been established. Senator TROOD—Is that available in the public domain? Mr A Campbell—Certainly, the advertisement stating the requirements would be in the public domain. It is listed, or summarised, on AusTender. I can clarify that the correct value is \$319,660. The contract is not public. The summary in two pages which was advertised would perhaps be useful to you. We could provide that, if you would be interested.	Answered at hearing (26/5/09 p54)
PM43	DPM&C	Trood	26 May p6	Dr Floyd—At the early stage Mr Eckhardt was in charge of the task force, but he has gone back to other areas. ... Dr Floyd—Now, he has returned to other duties in the department. ... Senator TROOD—When did that happen?	10/7/09
PM44a	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p11	Senator Faulkner—Senator, as I have said to you before, the Prime Minister's staff member in question, Mr Harris, has not accepted the journalist's, who is Mr Lewis I believe, interpretation of that conversation. I have been advised that he has put that to Mr Lewis. ... Senator RONALDSON—Will you take it on notice as to what Mr Harris's version of these events is and come back to the committee?	10/7/09
PM44b	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p20	Senator RONALDSON—Can I just finish on this note. I referred to an article before by Mr Lewis, about which you took a range of questions on notice. That article was co-authored by Ian McPhedran. I presume that you will take on notice any discussions that Mr Harris might have had with Mr McPhedran as well as any discussions with Mr Lewis, given that the article was co-authored?	10/7/09
PM45	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p13	Senator RONALDSON—Do you know whether Mr Jordan said to Mr Harris, 'This is a very serious allegation that has been made against you and you should demand an apology— ...	10/7/09

				Senator Faulkner—I do not know whether he has done that. What I do know— Senator RONALDSON—Could you take that on notice too?	
PM46a	DPM&C	Fielding	26 May p23	Senator FIELDING—From what I understand, the grant is or was to be used for the purposes of obtaining professional assistance and the purpose of the fund is to acquire Australian objects for display in the residences of the Prime Minister and the Governor-General. That money, \$117,000, seems a lot to spend on what I would call interior design. That is a lot of money. Mr Mrdak—This is a long-established arrangement whereby the Australian government provides a grant each year to support the work of the Australiana Fund... I will take on notice, if you do not mind, the breakdown of how much our grant sits vis-a-vis the overall funding for the Australiana Fund. I will get that for you this morning if I can and provide that to you.	10/7/09
PM46b	DPM&C	Fielding	26 May p23	Mr Mrdak—Certainly. I am happy to provide you some information in relation to that particular grant. We look annually at the provision of the grant. It is made from departmental funds. We look at it very hard. I recollect that last year in relation to the grant we worked quite closely with the Australiana Fund as to their requirements. As you will appreciate, the collection would certainly much more Australian government funding. But we, given budget restrictions and the like, need to tailor our grant to the most effective use. Hence, the bulk of the funding that was provided last year was for expert curatorial advice, which would not otherwise be able to be funded by the Australiana Fund. I will check if there is any further information that I can give to you.	10/7/09
PM47	DPM&C	Ryan	26 May p23	Senator RYAN—I have some questions about the COAG reform council and staffing, which we briefly covered yesterday. If I heard you correctly, Mr Mrdak, you said that the COAG reform council was based in Sydney. Mr Mrdak—That is correct. Senator RYAN—Who chose Sydney? Mr Mrdak—I would have to check. I think that it came out of a COAG decision when the COAG reform council was formed in 2007.	10/7/09
PM48	DPM&C	Ryan	26 May p24	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.	10/7/09
PM49	DPM&C	Ryan	26 May p25	Senator RYAN—It was up to each state to appoint their own coordinator general, was it not—that is, the equivalent of your position at the state or territory government level? ... Senator RYAN—I appreciate that you did not make any comments on any of the	10/7/09

				individuals whom the states or territories proposed. When you provided advice, or when information was flowing the other way, did your advice propose any names? Mr Mrdak—No. Senator RYAN—To your knowledge, no other advice was forthcoming from the department? Mr Mrdak—Not from the department. Senator RYAN—If it was different from that, I would appreciate your letting me know.	
PM50	DPM&C	Ryan	26 May p27	Mr Mrdak—...Every project involves some project management fee requirement. In some jurisdictions the projects are being managed in-house. For instance, Queensland is utilising its existing Department of Public Works. I am not aware of what project management fee is being charged by them for individual projects. I am happy to check that for you.	10/7/09
PM51	DPM&C	Ryan	26 May p28	Mr Mrdak—Not the work I have done to date, but, as I say, we are initiating some work at the moment to get information from the states and territories on what they are finding. One of the areas we are starting to look at is industry capabilities and costs, and this is one area where we do want to get a better understanding of what the picture is on project management costs. ... Senator RYAN—Is that the sort of information that is made public? Mr Mrdak—I can certainly provide that overview to the Senate. Senator RYAN—Along with any issues of concern. I think the committee would be particularly interested in something that was outside what you would desire to be the ballpark figure that would keep the Commonwealth happy.	10/7/09
PM52	DPM&C	Ryan	26 May p28	Senator RYAN—Finally I want to ask about the development and coordination of spending and output benchmarks. I am looking at the national partnership agreement where it actually talks about, as you mentioned earlier, previously budgeted state expenditure, section (b)(iii). Are there any more specific benchmarks that have been developed or are in the process of being developed? These are reasonably broad. Mr Mrdak—There are, and I would be happy to provide to you on notice further details.	10/7/09
PM53	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p29	Senator RONALDSON—In relation to COAG, there was a contract, CN166043, with the sum of \$28,017 for the COAG Reform Council corporate branding services. ... I take it that the objective of this contract was the design of a symbol or logo for the COAG Reform Council. Is that right? Mr Mrdak—I would have to check, if you did not mind. I will try to find some details for you through the course of this morning and come back to you, if I might.	10/7/09

PM54	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p29	Senator RONALDSON—How many staff do you anticipate at the moment will be recruited into this economic analysis area? Mr Mrdak—I do not have that information, but I am happy to take that on notice.	
PM55	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p31-32	Senator RONALDSON—Given the involvement of the Prime Minister's office in the public debate about this matter, Mr Mrdak, will you please take on notice my questions as to whether each VIP flight transporting the Prime Minister now includes a 24-hour supply of four-course meals; if not, what specific changes have been made to the meal service offered on RAAF VIP flights transporting the Prime Minister; and is the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet reimbursing Defence for these extra costs, or is Defence being forced to find savings in its own budget to cater for what I would view as the Prime Minister's excessive demands? Senator Faulkner—Putting aside the political spin, particularly in the last question, I am happy to take on notice the questions you have read out—that is fine. I point out to you that a high proportion of those issues do not belong in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, as you would appreciate. If and where appropriate, I will suggest to PM&C that your questions perhaps be referred to another agency. I know you have specifically identified a PM&C role in one of them, but least some of those matters you have raised are not properly directed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—they are more properly directed to Defence. However, with the understanding that we will handle the necessary administrative arrangements in relation to reallocation of your questions, I am happy to take them on notice.	10/7/09
PM56a	DPM&C	Ryan	26 May p34	Senator RYAN—Mr Mrdak, did you just say that there were 140,000 hits on the website? Mr Mrdak—I think it is of that order. I will get a more detailed number for you, but that is my understanding of the sort of number.	10/7/09
PM56b	DPM&C	Ryan	26 May p34	Senator RYAN—That is the ballpark number. I have done some quick maths and that is \$1.17 a hit. How does that compare with other government websites? We had the, I think, \$64-a-call climate change call centre. I am thinking that \$1.17 a hit would not be benchmarked well against what people in the private sector might spend. Do you benchmark any of those activities? Mr Mrdak—I would need to take on notice how it sits with other government websites. My understanding of the advice that I have been given is that it is, I think, at this stage, not receiving as many hits as, say, the Bureau of Meteorology website, but it is certainly one of the more popular government information sites at this time. I will get some details for you on how it sits.	10/7/09
PM57	Privacy	Bernardi	26 May p45	Senator BERNARDI—I would not expect you to but I am pleased to hear that. What about the youth portal? How many access that? Ms Curtis—That was only made operational in the week beginning 3 May, so it is	7/7/09

				only new. So I do not have figures for you of the access to date. Senator BERNARDI —Would you mind providing them to us on notice.	
PM58	Privacy	Bernardi	26 May p45	Senator BERNARDI —No, it is very efficient actually. And where has the booklet gone to? Ms Curtis —We have a strategy—we are just about to finalise it—to get it out to universities, TAFEs and other areas where young people may gather. Senator BERNARDI —Ten thousand is not that many, though, is it? Ms Curtis —No, we may need to do another run. Senator BERNARDI —That would be how you would measure the success or otherwise of it. Ms Curtis —Probably, and also the hits on the website. Senator BERNARDI —I would be interested in being kept up-to-date with that over the course of estimates, so I you could take that on notice—continuing notice also.	7/7/09
PM59	AIFS	Bernardi	26 May p48	Dr Gray —I will give you an example. We are doing a study on the impact of drought on families in regional and rural Australia. That has resulted in a fairly substantial data collection. We have done a number of specific projects that look at that. We have done a paper that looks at the impact on family functioning and labour market outcomes. That might be an example. We have done work on defining social inclusion. That was a paper we did for the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. It was published on the social inclusion website. That project took two or three months and provided a basis of discussion for the Social Inclusion Board. Senator BERNARDI —How many projects of that type would you do in a normal year? Dr Gray —We will take that on notice and get you the exact number.	9/7/09
PM60	DPM&C	Trood	26 May p54	Senator Faulkner —I think, say, a 3.30 break or a 3.15 break would be more sensible than now. I assume people would be listening to this, and my colleagues who I would want to check with are probably tied up in the House of Representatives. But I would ask Senator Trood just to make his question absolutely clear so none of us are under any illusions. I think I encapsulated it. Senator TROOD —The first question I asked was which intelligence agencies contributed to the process, and then I asked a further question. There seemed to be a difference of view about the intelligence assessment relating to the preparation of the white paper. The question was about when that difference of view became material and clear. Senator Faulkner —That was the question that I indicated was based on newspaper reports. I am not going to go back over old ground. I have your questions clear. I will not make any further commentary on the second question. I	Answered at hearing (26/5/09 p57)

				have already spoken about that. [See also questions PM63–66]	
PM61	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p56	Senator RONALDSON —Clearly, if the word ‘Labor’ is used that would breach the guidelines because it is neither impartial nor apolitical. Will you have that removed immediately once that is identified? Mr Mrdak —I will go back and review that material and seek advice on it, Senator, yes.	10/7/09
PM62	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p56	Senator RONALDSON —Thank you very much. Mr Mrdak, are you aware whether on that very substantial website, which I would view as being more about propaganda than information—but that is a comment not a question—the word ‘debt’ is used at all? Mr Mrdak —I would have to check. In which context? Senator RONALDSON —The word at all—any reference to government debt. Mr Mrdak —I would have to have a search done of the website. Senator RONALDSON —I would be interested for you to come back and let me know whether you could find it, because my checking of it indicates there is no mention at all of the word debt. What about the word ‘deficit’? Do you know how many times that appears? Mr Mrdak —Not readily, but I am happy to do a search in relation to that.	10/7/09
PM63	DPM&C	Trood	26 May p58	Senator TROOD —The first question I put, and let me repeat it, was: did the views of ONA and DIO, which you have acknowledged were contributing agencies to the preparation of the defence white paper, more or less accord with each other with regard to China’s rise and whether or not China’s rise constituted a threat to Australia’s strategic interests? That is question 1.	10/7/09
PM64	DPM&C	Trood	26 May p58	Senator TROOD —...Secondly, were the views of the Defence Intelligence Organisation and ONA at odds, or did they place different emphasis, on the views of the Department of Defence and the Prime Minister’s department in relation to this matter?	10/7/09
PM65	DPM&C	Trood	26 May p58	Senator TROOD —...Did the Director-General of the Office of National Assessments, Mr Varghese, write to the Prime Minister about the China debate and express alarm or concern that the nature of this debate within government could distort Australia’s national security priorities?	10/7/09
PM66	DPM&C	Trood	26 May p58	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?	10/7/09
PM67	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p61	Senator RONALDSON —The contact details of subscribers to the website: where is that information distributed to? Mr Mrdak —Contact details are not distributed, per se.	10/7/09

				Senator RONALDSON—There is a regular update service, isn't there? Mr Mrdak—There is. Senator RONALDSON—Which means that you have people's details— Mr Mrdak—That is right. Senator RONALDSON—but you are updating them. Mr Mrdak—That is right. The website is hosted and managed on behalf of the government by the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations. Their web unit manages the site and manages that subscription database. Senator RONALDSON—And does the employment minister have access to that database? Mr Mrdak—Not that I am aware of. Senator RONALDSON—If it is being managed by that department, why would the minister not have access to it? Mr Mrdak—I cannot see that the minister would need access to that sort of information. Essentially, this is for people who wish to receive regular updates of information. I will check the access to the data but my understanding is that that is just managed by the department as a process.	
PM68	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p61	Senator RONALDSON—Would there be any reason why the department would refuse a request from the relevant minister to obtain the details of those who had asked to be contacted or who had contacted the website? Mr Mrdak—Certainly, the department operates within all the obligations of Australian agencies with relation to privacy and the basis on which the information has been provided to the department for that purpose. If I might, I will take it up with the department to provide you with clear advice as to how they handle the information.	10/7/09
PM69	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p63	Budget for Australian exhibition at World Expo, China: Mr Mrdak—We have checked. The officials from international policy have been called to the same commitment that national security officers have been called to. I do apologise. I, along with the minister, am happy to pursue it to make sure that we get the right officials dealing with this issue in the estimates on foreign affairs.	Referred to DFAT estimates hearing
PM70	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p63	Senator RONALDSON—Are you aware of any damage reported in suite MG8 since February this year? If so, can you provide the committee with details of any damage or any associated repair costs? Mr Mrdak—I am not aware of any damage costs or any repair costs required, but I will take that on notice.	10/7/09
PM71	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p63, p84	Senator RONALDSON—Published date 28 January, category passenger transport. I think the same for the other one. 153445 deals with a PM&C contract for Comcar transportation services worth \$22,900 between the dates 30 November 2008 and 22 December 2008, which translates to a cost of over \$1,000 a day over	10/7/09

				this 23- day period. Parliament was sitting for four days. 153368, worth \$10,600, was for three days from 10 December 2008 to 12 December 2008. The Prime Minister was in Bali, I think, addressing the Democracy Forum on 10 December. I think I might have missed another contract—my apologies—which is CN153214. Again it was Comcar, published date 28 January this year. That was Comcar transportation services on behalf of PM&C worth \$65,700 over a 46-day period from 21 October last year to 15 December last year, at a cost of \$1,428 a day. Can you advise me what the purpose of the transport was? Mr Mrdak—I will come back to you with a detailed breakdown. Some of those will relate to ministerial services, which is the Prime Minister’s Comcar requirements. Others will relate to some of our international visits arrangements. I can come back to you with a detailed breakdown of those and which functions and events they are related to. Senator RONALDSON—They seem very substantial amounts. Mr Mrdak—I understand. I will give you a detailed breakdown of the split between support for the Prime Minister’s office and those that relate to official visits. ...(p84) Senator RONALDSON—We sat for two weeks in November last year. That was the weeks beginning 10 November and 24 November, both of which fit within CN153214. Then on 1 December we sat for another week. So we sat for three weeks last year between 10 November and 5 December. So for three weeks out of that period of 44 days, even if we put it at its most generous, that is 12 days. So we have 32 days of non-sitting days effectively with \$65,700—and the Comcar account CN153445 actually crosses over part of that period, does it not? Mr Mrdak—It does. Senator RONALDSON—So we have nearly \$90,000 in Comcar for 44 days for the Prime Minister. There must be staff usage in that, surely. Mr Mrdak—I will take that on notice and get you a breakdown on that. ... Senator RONALDSON—And, Mr Mrdak, you will provide full details of the usage of the Comcar under those contracts.	
PM72	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p67	Mr Mrdak—CN174341: Mercure Hotel, Hobart, hospitality, official business, 9 April, \$25,140. Senator RONALDSON—So there was \$25,000 worth of catering on one day? Mr Mrdak—Hospitality and official business—that would be the hire of all of the function rooms and the support, accommodation and rooms that would have been required for COAG. Generally for COAG meetings we hire a large enough area for the meeting itself and then there are rooms required for various delegations, state	10/7/09

				and territory, meeting rooms and the like, and also secretariat rooms. Then there would be the various meals and luncheons and the like provided. That would cover all of those costs. I will get you a detailed breakdown of all of that cost.	
PM73	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p68	Mr Mrdak—...The other one is in relation to Perth: catering, 24 January-24 February. I believe that would relate to the hosting of the Australia Day function in Perth, which the Prime Minister hosted on the Australia Day weekend. As you would be aware, the Prime Minister held a series of functions around the country in the lead-up to Australia Day this year. ... Senator RONALDSON—So 200 people, at the Prime Minister's invitation, have chomped through 15,000 bucks worth of food and drink? Mr Leverett—Not entirely, Senator; there were some other costs in there. Most of that figure is for food and beverage. Senator RONALDSON—Or even transport costs, after that amount of money being spent on it. Mr Leverett—No, there were some entertainment costs. For instance, there was a young man who sang the national anthem. Senator RONALDSON—What did he charge? Mr Leverett—I do not have that figure with me. I can certainly get it for you. There was, I think, a string quartet that played background music, but the bulk of it was for the hospitality—that is, food and beverage. Senator RONALDSON—You will get me full details of those, please?	10/7/09
PM74	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p68	Senator RONALDSON—I am going to ask you about that. How many Australia Day functions—the Australia Day tour, we might call it—did he have, where were they and what were the costs? Mr Leverett—The Prime Minister attended a number of Australia Day functions, but only three were actually hosted by him: the Perth one we have just discussed, another event in Sydney and the usual Australia Day reception at the Lodge, in Canberra, on Australia Day. Senator RONALDSON—What was the cost of the Sydney soiree? Mr Leverett—I do not have that with me, but I can get it for you. Senator RONALDSON—Were they as hungry and thirsty as they were in Perth, do you know? Mr Leverett—There were certainly fewer people, so the cost will be less, but I do not know pro rata. Senator RONALDSON—I do not think there is any guarantee of that, so let us take that on notice and find out. Just so we are clear: we are going to get the 9 April catering broken down, we are going to get the Perth one broken down, we are going to get the Sydney Australia Day soiree broken down and we will also get	10/7/09

				the details of the function at the Lodge. Is that correct?	
PM75	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p68	Senator RONALDSON—Can I take you now, please—I am mindful of the time and the agency we have tonight—to the Ashmore Reef incident and the explosion on the illegal immigration vessel last month. I want to ask you about particularly the government’s refusal to disclose information on this incident. In fairness, I probably prepared these questions a week or so ago in conjunction with my very hardworking staff. Has there been any further disclosure in relation to this incident in the last week that I might have missed? Mr Mrdak—Senator, I am sorry; the officers who deal with these issues have left us because of that other commitment that they have gone to. Perhaps, if I might, I could take that on notice and come back to you, or we might deal with it separately when the officers are available later this afternoon?	10/7/09
PM76	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p69	Senator RONALDSON—Have Defence been asked by the Northern Territory coroner or anyone else not to release still photography or footage? Senator Faulkner—I am only aware of the information that I was provided, and I hope I have been able to faithfully report it here at the committee. But I will certainly check for you whether that is still the status. Obviously, it is a matter directly for Defence, not the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Whether PM&C have been informed, I do not know. I would not expect them to be in the ordinary course of events. I will check that for you and let you know as soon as I can if there have been any developments. Senator RONALDSON—And also any requests of Defence by the coroner or anyone else requesting Defence that they not release the video footage or still photography? Senator Faulkner—I can take that on notice.	10/7/09
PM77	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p69	Senator RONALDSON—What was the contract period for CN174341? It was 9 April, was it not? Mr Mrdak—I think it was 9 April and going forward. Senator RONALDSON—It was not actually COAG, was it? Mr Mrdak—I am just checking. I just do not recall any other functions in Hobart. I am just presuming this would be the contract date, but I will just check that now. I will come back to you as soon as I can.	Answered at hearing: 26/05/2009
PM78	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p72	Senator RONALDSON—Can I quickly go to the 2020 summit... Of the almost 1,000 ideas submitted, how many have received the green light from the government for implementation? Was it about nine? Mr Mrdak—No. The government’s response, which was released by the Prime Minister in April, against each of the 10 agendas, outlined the number of ideas. A large number were being taken forward through initiatives the government already had underway or was further considering. It was a relatively small number—and I	10/7/09

				am happy to take on notice how many that was—which were not being considered further.	
PM79	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p73	Senator RONALDSON—In the response you also indicated that there had been a request from a member of the public and as such you printed the 11th copy of the book as a second edition; is that right? Mr Mrdak—My understanding is that there was an additional copy printed in response to that request. Senator RONALDSON—So is there any reason why this poor soul can't be identified—where that person might be from in a general sense, without necessarily their name? Mr Mrdak—I will take that on notice. I do not know the particular circumstances but I am happy to check that for you.	10/7/09
PM80	DPM&C	Bernardi	26 May p74	Senator BERNARDI—...If I can move on to Budget Paper No. 2, and page 132 of that, the government nominated a \$50.8 million allocation for a national media campaign to raise public awareness of how householders can improve the energy efficiency of their homes and how they can access the government assistance announced in the Nation Building and Jobs Plan. ... Senator BERNARDI—How much money was allocated to the ATO? Mr Mrdak—I would have to take that on notice. I do not have the split with me but I will get that information for you.	10/7/09
PM81	DPM&C	Bernardi	26 May p74, p78	Mr Mrdak—Funding has been provided to Centrelink for information—again, in relation to its delivery programs and information for their customers—to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for some of the communications activities around the delivery of the infrastructure projects, to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, as I indicated, and to the Australian Taxation Office. Senator BERNARDI—So it is just the four departments? Mr Mrdak—That is right. Senator BERNARDI—You do not have the breakdown? Mr Mrdak—I do not have the breakdown but I will get that for you. ...(p78) Senator BERNARDI—Mr Mrdak, I would like a detailed breakdown of the departments that are spending this money and how they are going about spending this money. I would like to know how it is being spent, including through the ATO and all of those.	10/7/09
PM82	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p78	Senator RONALDSON —Are they centrally heated, which would have thermostat	10/7/09

				settings that can be altered? Mr Cairns —I do not know, but I can find that out for you.	
PM83	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p80	Mr Leverett —Yes. There is at least one and possibly two laptop computers. Senator RONALDSON —How old are they? Mr Leverett —I would have to check the records, but they were presented to Prime Minister Howard, so they are several years old at least.	10/7/09
PM84	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p81	Senator RONALDSON —Can you detail for me the nature and cost of all official gifts given by the Prime Minister to foreign dignitaries since December 2007? Mr Leverett —I cannot do it here and now— Senator RONALDSON —I understand. Please take it on notice.	10/7/09
PM85	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p84	Senator RONALDSON —Minister, can you confirm what the rules are in relation to ministerial staff using Comcars? Senator Faulkner —I will double-check if I have not got this absolutely accurate, but I think basically PMO staff, in relation to the Comcar entitlement, have a capacity to travel to and from Fairbairn. Senator RONALDSON —The airport, yes. They were your new rules, I think, which you introduced last year, I think. But it was only for trips to and from the airport that ministerial staff could use Comcars. Is that right? Senator Faulkner —That is the entitlement. That is all on the public record. You have probably got a copy of it, but if you need to get it I can get a copy for you. Senator RONALDSON —I would be interested to see what your exact ruling is in relation to that, and I am even more interested, Mr Mrdak, in finding out— Senator Faulkner —Well— Senator RONALDSON —What's the problem? Senator Faulkner —I think what I have reflected and what you are saying is the Comcar entitlement in relation to staff. Senator RONALDSON —That is what I said. I am looking forward to receiving it. Senator Faulkner —I was assuming you did not need to receive it but, if you do, I am more than happy to provide it.	Answered at hearing: 26/05/2009 p90
PM86	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p84	Senator RONALDSON —We have dealt with the \$65,700, which is the 153214 contract. We have dealt with the 30 November 2008 153445 contract. What does the 153368 contract for \$10,600 relate to? Mr Mrdak —I am advised that it relates to the hosting of the November COAG meeting that was held here in Canberra. Senator RONALDSON —What date was that? Mr Mrdak —I will find out for you. I think it was late November, from memory.	10/7/09

				Senator RONALDSON—This contract period was 10 December to 12 December, which is well outside the COAG timeline, isn't it? Mr Mrdak—I will check whether that was an area of tender, but my understanding is COAG was 29 November. Senator RONALDSON—Can you double-check that for me.	
PM87	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p85	Senator RONALDSON—Yes, thank you. I will be fascinated to see where this nearly \$90,000 in 44 days was spent on the use of Comcar in Canberra and who indeed was using that. Can I please have some details of any staff use, Mr Mrdak, in that COAG contract 153368 of \$10,600 in two days for COAG. (see also PM71)	10/7/09
PM88	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p85	Senator RONALDSON—Before I come to that, can you just take this on notice for me. The value of contract CN153586 for Zoo Communications for the design typesetting of web format documentation and printing of the electoral reform green paper was \$16,300. Can you just let me know how many hard copies of the electoral reform green paper were produced, please.	10/7/09
PM89a	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p86	Mr Mrdak—As I indicated, Mr Mulgan was visiting Australia for a range of activities, not least of which the work he is doing with Melbourne university and the Australia and New Zealand School of Government. Given that, it was believed a timely opportunity for us to utilise his skills at the time we were forming a division by contracting him. Additionally, he did work for the department in relation to an initial strategic analysis of the issues arising from the 2020 Summit, which fed into the development of the government's response. Senator RONALDSON—Can you take on notice all contracts either direct or otherwise with Mr Mulgan, or any companies that he operates with, since November 2007.	10/7/09
PM89b	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p87	Mr Mrdak—I am certainly not aware of any other contracts that this department has with Mr Mulgan or any associated entities. Senator RONALDSON—What about any government contracts that he has been given over that period of time? You can take that on notice. Mr Mrdak—We will check with other agencies.	10/7/09
PM90	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p87	Senator RONALDSON—Did the Deputy Prime Minister's deputy chief of staff have any discussions with anyone within PM&C in relation to this contract? Mr Mrdak—Not that I am aware of. Senator RONALDSON—Can you make those inquiries, please. Mr Mrdak—Certainly, but the decision to engage Mr Mulgan was made by the department. Senator RONALDSON—You see, Mr Mrdak, when I see something like this it	10/7/09

				obviously rings immediate alarm bells for me after what we saw in relation to the CMAX affair. So you will take on notice whether there have been any discussions at all between Mr Bentley, the deputy chief of staff to Ms Gillard, and anyone within the Prime Minister's office or the department?	
PM91	DPM&C	Ronaldson	26 May p89	Senator RONALDSON—Did the department have any conversations with any external agencies or individuals in relation to the appointment of Mr Mulgan? Did you receive, or did the department receive, any phone calls from any other people suggesting that he would be appropriate for employment by the department, particularly anyone involved with any universities in Australia? Mr Mrdak—Not me personally. I am happy to check that.	10/7/09
PM92	ANAO	Ronaldson	26 May p102	Senator RONALDSON—...I have just referred to Audit report No. 24, pages 147 and 173, which say that websites are explicitly counted as part of campaign advertising. Do you think it might be appropriate, given the example of your highly politicised website in relation to the stimulus package, that websites should not now form part of any of the ANAO review process in order to maintain the openness and transparency that you have been so often quoted on over the last two days? Indeed, would you acknowledge that the rules, as they exist, have really become quite irrelevant given the fact that technology is moving campaigning into an entirely different area. Senator Faulkner—I note that Mr Chapman has a copy of the audit report. I have not got it in front of me and I have not seen it, but I accept that you have quoted accurately from it. I am certainly happy to have a look at that. I can say to you that I am expecting agencies to provide further advice to government in the near future, certainly at some stage this week, about this issue. I am certainly happy to closely examine what is in that audit report. I will also obviously be very closely interested in the views of agencies on these matters. I do take issue on a point, as I have before with you. I do not accept your description of the website as being 'highly politicised'. It is an agency website, the content of which is the responsibility of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—I stress that: the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The one issue that you have drawn attention to Mr Mrdak certainly took account of and said he would make immediate inquiries when you asked him about it today. But I will certainly look closely at that. I am expecting advice, as I have indicated to you, from agencies, including the ANAO, I assume, about these matters in the near future. I am happy to give you that.	6/7/09
PM93	ANAO	Ronaldson	26 May p103, p105	Senator RONALDSON—No, this is a climate change ad campaign of \$13.95 million which was cancelled early this month. Of the \$13.95 million appropriated under appropriation bill No. 3, \$8.8 million was spent and then it was canned. It was just cancelled. I am asking you whether you are going to undertake an audit of that wasted \$8.8 million?	6/7/09

				Mr M White—I am unaware of a climate change campaign of that size and nature being cancelled. We have not been referred to that campaign. Senator RONALDSON—Can you take that on notice. While we are up for 15 minutes, can you have a look at that campaign? I am asking you a very simple question: will you undertake an audit of the wasted \$8.8 million in relation to that cancelled advertising campaign that was started for cheap political reasons and was cancelled for those very same reasons? While we are having a break, can you please go— Senator Faulkner—I suspect that the Auditor-General, given that he is not here— Senator RONALDSON—and investigate that for me and get back to me. Senator Faulkner—Senator, you would know that the ANAO make those decisions. The Auditor-General is not even present at tonight’s hearing. ...(p105) Senator RONALDSON—Thank you. If you can take that on notice. My question was regarding an audit of the waste of the money that I alleged, as opposed to— Mr Chapman—A timing issue. Senator RONALDSON—Misappropriation of the money, for want of a better word. It was in relation to the waste of that money. If you could take that on notice and get back to me and let me know exactly what the state of play was with that contract.	
PM94	ANAO	Ronaldson	26 May p106	Senator RONALDSON—If you view it as part of the campaign, I think your view would be that it should have been referred to you. I am asking you to take on notice my query as to whether this bonus payment part of the economic stimulus website, where there is specific reference to it, should have formed part of that advertising brief that was referred to you in relation to the bonus payments campaign. Mr Chapman—We will take it on notice, but we will need to consult with the department of finance to obtain their view as to why that was not referred. ... Senator RONALDSON—Given the nature of the website and the fact that it is called an economic stimulus website, and given that it was part of an economic stimulus campaign, will you now take on notice and review—in light of what is in this website and the reference to it—whether it should have formed part of the advertising campaign that you were asked to oversee? Mr Chapman—We understand your question and we will come back with a considered response.	6/7/09
PM95	APSC	Ronaldson	26 May p109	Senator RONALDSON—Yes. Can you take on notice whether you have received complaints or appeals, either formal or informal, from members of the Public Service expressing concerns that the perception of APS impartiality might be	28/5/09

				damaged as a result of the CPSU affiliation with the ALP or indeed any complaints or appeals, either formal or informal, in relation to the internal tensions in the Australian Public Service that have been driven by this affiliation?	
PM96	OPH	Ronaldson	26 May p112	Senator RONALDSON—I noticed that Prime Minister Howard had, for example, John Winston Howard, prime minister, et cetera and then there is a quote: ‘It is time to bite the bullet and take a stand so Australia does not go down the path of the US with its gun culture.’ In relation to that aspect, was that discussed with Mr Howard, or ‘He will be remembered for introducing gun control through a federally funded buyback scheme’? Were those words run past Mr Howard? Ms Anderson—I would have to check for you, but certainly the exhibition components that Mr Howard contributed to were the Bali bombing contribution that he gave to that exhibition. We have since done several short films on each prime minister and we had academics help us with that research. Senator RONALDSON—Can you take that on notice for me, whether the text was discussed with him? Ms Anderson—Yes. So it was a text you were interested in in the short film. Senator RONALDSON—Yes. Thank you.	3/7/09
PM97a	DPMC	Bushby	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM97b	DPMC	Bushby	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM97c	DPMC	Bushby	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM97d	DPMC	Bushby	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM98a	APSC	Fifield	Written	See attached below	9/7/09
PM98b	APSC	Fifield	Written	See attached below	9/7/09
PM98c	APSC	Fifield	Written	See attached below	9/7/09
PM98d	APSC	Fifield	Written	See attached below	9/7/09
PM99a	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM99b	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM99c	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM100a	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM100b	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM100c	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM101a	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM101b	OOSGG	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM102a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM102b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09

PM102c	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM102d	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM103a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM103b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM103c	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM104a	APSC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	9/7/09
PM104b	APSC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	9/7/09
PM104c	APSC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	9/7/09
PM105a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM105b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM105c	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM105d	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM106	Ombudsman	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	15/6/09
PM107	NAA	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	22/6/09
PM108a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM108b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM108c	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM109a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM109b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM109c	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM109d	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM109e	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM110a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM110b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM111a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM111b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM112a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM112b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM112c	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM113a	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM113b	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM113c	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09

PM113d	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09
PM113e	DPMC	Ronaldson	Written	See attached below	10/7/09

Written QON

PM97(a-d) (BUSHBY)-DPMC

Follow up questions to Additional Estimates 08-09 Questions PM33a-z

- a) It was stated in answer PM33a, that it was not possible to provide an amount for the total cost of the visit by the Prime Minister to Hobart on 5 and 6 November 2008, because the cost of the Special Purpose Aircraft will not be known until June 2009. Please provide the requested total cost to the taxpayer for this visit once the information referred to in that answer has been tabled. In terms of calculating this cost the following is requested to be considered:
 - a. All costs associated with the Special Purpose Flight into Launceston on 5 November 2008
 - b. All costs associated with the Special Purpose Flight from Launceston to Hobart on 5 November 2008
 - c. All costs associated with the Special Purpose Flight from Hobart to the destination that the Flight arrived, after leaving Hobart on 6 November 2008
 - d. Costs should include an appropriate apportion or actual costs of lease/charter/depreciation/finance of the aircraft (as appropriate), fuel, maintenance, cleaning, catering, staffing, staffing costs and accommodation and all other costs associated with the provision of Special Purpose Aircraft for the use of the Prime Minister for the journeys set out above
- b) What was the total cost of protective services and Tasmania police for protecting and transporting the Prime Minister for the period between when he left Launceston on 5 November 2008 and when he left Hobart on 6 November 2008 and for his overall protection during the visit to open Julie Collins Hobart office? Such costs should include an appropriate apportion for staffing, staffing costs and accommodation, use of vehicle, fuel and maintenance thereof and all other costs associated with the provision of protective services and transport for the Prime Minister throughout that period
- c) It was stated in answer PM33v that 'standard travel allowance was paid. What was the amount paid in dollar terms? Were there any other costs paid in relation to the advancers trip to Hobart prior to the Prime Minister's visit on 5 and 6 November 2008? If so, please provide full details. How did the advancer get to Hobart? Where did the advancer leave from immediately prior to heading to Hobart? How did the advancer travel from the prior location to Hobart? How much did the travel from that prior location to Hobart cost? Did the advancer stay in commercial accommodation? If so, where?
- d) In answer PM33y, it was stated that the Prime Minister had one other official engagement whilst in Hobart on the 5th and 6th of November 2008. Please provide full details of this engagement, what it was for, where it was held, how many people attended (an estimate will suffice if exact numbers are not available), whether there was any entry fee or requested donation for any of the attendees (and if so, how much) and when it started and when it ended.

PM98(a-d) (FIFIELD)-APSC

National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy

- a) The APSC is providing training and support for disability network forums. What consultations have taken place with stakeholders in developing this training?
- b) The Budget papers state that the APSC will "absorb" the costs associated with this training and support. How will the APSC provide these services without any additional funding?
- c) How many staff from the APSC will work on the training and support?
- d) What relevant experience does the APSC have in providing support to programs like this?

PM99(a-c) (RONALDSON)-OOSGG

- a) Did the Governor General stay overnight in at the Tarin Kowt base in Afghanistan?

- b) On what grounds was the decision taken to allow the Governor General an overnight stay in a volatile combat zone?
- c) Which agency or agencies provided advice to the Governor General that she would be safe at Tarin Kowt?

PM100(a-c) (RONALDSON)-OOSGG

- a) For the Governor General's trip to Africa, how many aircraft were originally requested for the trip?
- b) Was there any intervention on the part of the Prime Minister or his office or his Department to reduce the number of aircraft for the Governor General's trip?
- c) How many staff currently employed by the office of the Governor General have previously been employed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade? At what levels are they now employed?

PM101(a-b) (RONALDSON)-OOSGG

In relation to the Victoria Cross ceremony held at Government House in January 2009:

- a) Was the Honorary Colonel of the Special Air Service Regiment invited to attend the ceremony? Did he do so? If he was not invited, why not?
- b) Was the Office of the Governor General responsible for the media doorstep attended by the Prime Minister at the Australian War Memorial earlier in the day? If not, who organised this event?

PM102(a-d) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

- a) When former Prime Minister Howard visited Australian troops in Afghanistan, did he stay overnight in Tarin Kowt? If not, why not?
- b) What arrangements were made for the aircraft that transported Mr Howard to Tarin Kowt? Is it correct that the situation was deemed so dangerous that the RAAF transport aircraft on which he was travelling did not stay at Tarin Kowt, but flew to Kandahar to wait until it was time for him to depart on the same day?
- c) Is it the view of the Government that the security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated substantially since the time that Mr Howard was in Afghanistan?
- d) Did the Office of the Governor General seek any advice from the office of the Prime Minister or the Department in relation to an overnight stay in Tarin Kowt by the current Governor General? If so, what was the nature of the advice provided?

PM103(a-c) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

- a) Who is responsible for choosing the prime ministerial wine collection? Is it a member of the household staff, or a member of the prime minister's family, or the prime minister himself?
- b) What is the current list of the names and values of the wine collection at both The Lodge and Kirribilli?
- c) Is there an electronic inventory of the wine cellars' contents, or is a manual or card system used?

PM104(a-c) (RONALDSON)-APSC

- a) In relation to AustTender Contract Notice View CN174308, precisely what services did the Australian Public Service Commission receive from Saville & Holdsworth under the terms of this contract?
- b) If this contract involved training or testing, how many persons were trained under the terms of this \$601,658.15 contract?
- c) Were those services indeed delivered within the space of a single day, as the AusTender website appears to indicate ?

PM105(a-d) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

- a) Is it correct that prior to the 2007 Federal election, the Labor Party promised that department and agency head vacancies would be advertised well in advance and filled on merit and with more transparency?
- b) If such a change of policy regarding the selection of department and agency heads was implemented by the Government, when did it come into effect?
- c) Can the Prime Minister point to any instances in which this new procedure has come into play in the choice of a department or agency head?
- d) Is it correct that there has been no change in the process for secretaries, and that Terry Moran advises Kevin Rudd on appointments after consulting with the relevant minister?

PM106 (RONALDSON)-Ombudsman

The Minister for Finance and Deregulation has increased the traditional 1.25% annual efficiency dividend imposed on Commonwealth agency budgets to 2% this year. How does the Commonwealth Ombudsman plan to achieve this higher than usual efficiency dividend?

PM107 (RONALDSON)-NAA

The Minister for Finance and Deregulation has increased the traditional 1.25% annual efficiency dividend imposed on Commonwealth agency budgets to 2% this year. How does the National Archives plan to achieve this higher than usual efficiency dividend?

PM108(a-c) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

- a) Has the Department entered into any contracts with the Boston Consulting Group since December 2007?
- b) If so, what are the nature and value of such contracts?
- c) Are any employees of Boston Consulting currently located in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet building?

PM109(a-e) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

In relation to the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Trooper Donaldson in January 2009:

- a) On what day was the Prime Minister or his office first contacted in relation to the ceremony at Government House?
- b) Was the Prime Minister or his office or his department responsible for the media doorstep attended by the Prime Minister at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) earlier in the day? If not, who organised this event?
- c) Were members of the electronic media invited to the AWM event? If not, why not?
- d) Was the Honorary Colonel of the Special Air Service Regiment invited to attend the AWM event? If not, why not?
- e) Was Mr Gower aware that the Prime Minister intended to use the facilities of the AWM for the media event? If so, when was he informed of this intention?

PM110(a-b) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

- a) How many people are employed in the Department as speechwriters, or whose primary duties involve the writing of speeches?
- b) Are all such people APS employees, or have external consultants been employed to fulfil these duties? If there are any of the latter, could the Committee be provided with details of who these contractors are and value of their contracts?

PM111(a-b) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

- a) Can the Committee be provided with a list of official gifts received by Prime Minister Keating, and the ultimate disposition of these gifts? If not, why not?

- b) Can the Committee be provided with a list of official gifts received by Prime Minister Hawke, and the ultimate disposition of these gifts? If not, why not?

PM112(a-c) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

In relation to the establishment of the National Emergency Warning System announced by the Prime Minister:

- a) Is it the intention of the Government to have the warning system operational before the end of 2009? If not, why not?
- b) As of 5 June 2009, what is the status of the tender process for the development of this warning system?
- c) When is it anticipated that the tender process for this warning system will be concluded and contracts awarded?

PM113(a-e) (RONALDSON)-DPMC

- a) Can the Department provide the Prime Minister's programme for all visits undertaken to the United Kingdom since he became Prime Minister
- b) Can the Department provide the programme for Ms Therese Rein for all official visits undertaken to the United Kingdom since Mr Rudd became Prime Minister
- c) Can the Department provide the details of all meetings attended by Mr Rudd in the United Kingdom since 24 November 2007
- d) Can the Department provide the details of all meetings attended by Ms Rein in the United Kingdom during official visits since 24 November 2007
- e) Can the Department provide the details of all meetings arranged by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for all visits undertaken by the Prime Minister to the United Kingdom since 24 November 2007