

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 24 May-3rd June 2010

Question: PM26a

Topic: COAG - staffing

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 59, 25 May

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Number of pages: 2

Senator PAYNE-Can I ask about the most recent COAG meeting, which was held over two days and you included the Sunday night in that. I assume you will have to take some of this on notice. Can you advise the committee in relation to that meeting what hours senior officials worked during the period of the COAG meeting?

Dr Grimes-I would not have that information here with me but officials would have worked extended hours during that period. Mr Rimmer may be able to provide any further information on that.

Mr Rimmer-I think we would want to take the exact hours on notice.

Answer:

Senior officers and Senior Executive Staff (SES) are not covered by the terms and conditions set out by the current Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Collective Agreement 2007-10. As such, senior officers and SES are not required to record the exact number of hours that they work.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet senior officials during the lead up to, and during, the 19-20 April 2010 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) worked:

- during the day and evening of Sunday 18 April;
- until late in the evening on Monday 19 April;
- throughout both meeting days on 19 and 20 April; and

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- in finalising the COAG communiqué and the National Health and Hospitals Agreement on the evening of Tuesday 20 April.