

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: PM57

Topic: Home Insulation Program - Department risk assessment

Type of Question: Hansard, F&PA 119, 25 May

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of pages: 1

Senator ABETZ-Can I ask the question again: is it correct that officials in Kevin Rudd's and Peter Garrett's departments assessed the risk of death or injury under the government's insulation program to be extreme three times in the three months before the first of the four young workers was killed? Is that a correct statement?

Ms Beauchamp-I was not there at the time. I will have to take that on notice, because I am not too sure what the document is you are referring to.

Answer:

No.

The risk register referred to in the question was an internal Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) document used by DEWHA in its management of the Home Insulation Program.

DEWHA and the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE) have previously provided copies of the risk register to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts Inquiry into the Energy Efficiency Homes Package.

As can be seen from the copies of the risk register provided to the Committee, while there were some safety risks rated as extreme 'inherent risk level before any treatment' the final safety risk ratings in the final column 'risk after treatment completed' were not extreme. This reflects the steps taken by DEWHA at the time to address the risks raised.