Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010–11

Department/Agency: Australian National Audit Office
Topic: Audit report No.33 2009–10 *Building the Education Revolution—Primary Schools for the 21st Century*

Senator: the Hon Michael Ronaldson
Question reference number: PM71 (71 a, b, c, d)
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of pages: 1

Question 71a—*On what date did you submit the draft BER audit report to the Deputy Prime Minister's office?*

Answer: The proposed report was provided to the Deputy Prime Minister's office on 22 March 2010 under the provisions of Section 19 of the *Auditor-General Act 1997*.

Question 71b—*Is there anything in the Auditor-General Act that would prohibit a person from confirming the fact that they had received a draft audit report?*

Answer: No. There is nothing in the *Auditor-General Act 1997* that would prohibit a person disclosing whether they had received a proposed audit report pursuant to Section 19 of the Act as such disclosure would not amount to disclosure of information in the proposed report. In relation to the content of a proposed audit report, Section 36(3) the *Auditor-General Act 1997* states that 'A person who receives a proposed report, or an extract from a proposed report, under section 19 must not disclose any of the information in the report, or the extract, except with the consent of the Auditor-General'

Question 71c—*Was the Deputy Prime Minister correct in her assertion on the 16 April 2010 edition of Channel 9's Today show that the Auditor-General Act prohibits her, not from divulging the details of a draft audit report, but merely providing confirmation of its receipt?*

Answer: See answer to question 71b.

Question 71d—*If the Deputy Prime Minister's assertions about the Auditor-General Act are incorrect, did the ANAO take any steps to inform the Deputy Prime Minister of her mistake?*

Answer: No.
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