

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 – Support services for government operations
Topic: Community Cabinet meetings

Senator: Fifield

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Question:

Senator Chris Evans: They used to encourage secretaries to attend. Certainly I took to a practice where I encouraged the state manager to be there. Quite frankly, with all due respect to the secretaries, they have a better feel for the local issues and services being provided. So we do not fly an official in. When we did the Perth one we had the WA state director. I think there are fewer officials than there used to be. Clearly, the organisational side requires a few people.

CHAIR: Senator Fifield, do you have many more questions on this issue?

Senator FIFIELD: No, I do not.

Mr Sterland: If you want that sort of detail, I could take it on notice.

Senator FIFIELD: Sure. If you could, thank you.

Answer:

Ministers are generally accompanied at Community Cabinet meetings by a senior departmental official. The final decision on who accompanies a minister remains at the discretion of the departmental secretary.