

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Australia in the Asian Century white paper - Dr Henry's Travel

Senator: Senator Ryan

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Question:

Ms Cross: I am reading from a brief, senator, and the white paper process is well underway. It is intended that it be developed by the government in the first half of the year, as you are aware, and released midyear. A series of consultations has been undertaken. I do not have a list of them here in the brief-and I can get a more detailed brief, if you want-but I believe most of the discussions are completed. They have been both in Australia and overseas. The government is still working to that time frame of the middle of the year.

Senator RYAN: Has Dr Henry travelled overseas as part of these consultations?

Ms Cross: Yes, he has.

Senator RYAN: I imagine you may need to take this on notice but is it possible for you to give the number of occasions he has travelled overseas and to where?

Ms Cross: I will take that on notice.

Senator RYAN: Can you also provide a list of stakeholders or individuals with whom he has undertaken consultations?

Answer:

Three separate international trips have been undertaken by the Australia in the Asian Century Task Force:

Indonesia

- Dr Ken Henry and Ms Meghan Quinn travelled to Indonesia, from 24 to 27 January 2012.

Singapore and India

- Dr Ken Henry, Mr David Gruen and Ms Meghan Quinn travelled to Singapore from 19 to 20 March 2012;

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- Dr Ken Henry, Dr Gordon de Brouwer, Dr David Gruen and Ms Meghan Quinn travelled to New Delhi from 20 to 22 March 2012; and
- Dr David Gruen and Ms Meghan Quinn travelled to Mumbai from 22 to 23 March 2012.

Japan and China

- Dr Ken Henry, Dr David Gruen and Ms Meghan Quinn travelled to Japan from 22 to 25 April and to China from 25 to 28 April.