

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: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Oversight of Ministerial staff code of conduct

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 59

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

The Department of Finance said the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet had responsibility for the oversight of the Ministerial staff Code of Conduct.

1. Does the Prime Minister's Office or the department oversee the code?
2. How many times have complaints been made about violations of this code?
3. How many investigations have been undertaken?
 - a. What has been the finding and outcome of each investigation?

Answer:

1) The Government Staffing Committee provides advice to the Prime Minister in relation to the operation of the code.

2) and 3) Matters related to compliance with the code were subject to examination by Mr Peter Hamburger in 2008 and extensively canvassed before this committee.