

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 27 May-6 June 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Cybersecurity Question on Notice error

Senator: Ms Kroger

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator KROGER: Thank you. Chair, I have a couple of questions in relation to cybersecurity. It is in relation to question on notice 1351 to the Prime Minister, which was circulated on 22 April this year, which notes that the government's commitment of \$1.46 billion towards cybersecurity was to cover the period from 2009 to 2030, and not to 2020, as was indicated by the Prime Minister in her national security speech earlier in the year. Given the scale of this pretty substantial error, why was this not corrected on the record before it was brought to the attention of the government some three months later?

Dr McCarthy: Senator, I will have to take that on notice. I have looked into how that error occurred, but I will need to take on notice the question that you have asked.

Senator KROGER: Sure. Could you also take on notice: of that \$1.46 billion in funding, what amount is being spent each year until 2030? What is the forecast spend over the years—whether it is a straight average across; what is forecasted? I

Answer:

PM&C alerted the former Prime Minister's Office to the error on the day of the National Security Strategy launch speech (22 January 2013). The public record was updated on 16 April in the course of answering a Question on Notice from The Hon Stuart Robert MP on broader cyber security funding issues.

The Government does not comment on specific national security funding breakdowns. Through the 2009 Defence White Paper, \$1.46 billion was committed to strengthen Defence cyber security capabilities out to 2030.