

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2005-2006, 31 October 2005

Question: PM 21

Outcome 1, Output 2.1

Topic: The Exclusive Brethren and the funding of education trusts and/or private schools

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Senator Milne asked: Has the Prime Minister had any meetings with the Exclusive Brethren with regard to the funding of education trusts and/or private schools and specifically with regard to any exemptions to the current requirements for federal government funding for private schools?

Answer: Yes, the Prime Minister has met members of the Exclusive Brethren.

The Prime Minister meets many organisations and individual Australians to discuss issues important to them. Such discussions are confidential. The Prime Minister is appropriately respectful of those who talk to him and also mindful of the interests of others in the community who may have a different perspective. Decisions on policy, programme issues and administrative matters are made on their merits.