

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings 2006-2007, 30 October 2006

Question: PM 4

Outcome 1

Topic: Cabinet Policy Unit

Hansard Page: F&PA 53:

Senator Ray asked: Senator ROBERT RAY – You might have to take a few questions on notice. Basically, my question is:

What is the rationale for appointing two? What is their role? Who are they? Who is home-based in Sydney and who is home-based in Canberra? I think that will do on that particular issue.

My second question, again, goes to the Prime Minister approving staff. Could I have an explanation as to why the Prime Minister has approved 10 staff members for the Leader of the National Party in the Senate seven days after the Nationals assumed the balance of power in 2005? I think you understand that therefore Senator Boswell is much more highly staffed than Senator Evans; and they do have different roles and capacities. But I assume you cannot help me with that now.

Answer: As at 1 November 2006, Ms Niki Savva and Mr Mark Henderson were employed as media advisers in the Cabinet Policy Unit. Ms Savva is based in Canberra and Mr Henderson is based in Sydney.

The Prime Minister has advised that, consistent with the practice of previous governments, the number of staff allocated to each office holder is determined on the basis of the number of staff required to allow them to discharge their duties efficiently and effectively.

