

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 54

Outcome 4

Topic: Annual Report

Hansard Page: Direct on Notice

Senator Ludwig asked:

With regard to each agencies (and the department itself) that fall inside the department's portfolio, could the department indicate:

1. What date the agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before parliament?
2. If the annual report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the department indicate:
 - a. When the report was tabled, or if it remains untabled what date the report is expected to be tabled by;
 - b. Whether the agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its annual report. If so, could the department provide:
 - i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation;
 - ii. An explanation of why the agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports, and so requires an alternative timeframe?
 - c. Whether the agency was granted an extension under section subsections 34C(4) - (7) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*? If so, could the department provide:
 - i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension;
 - ii. The reason given for granting the extension;
 - iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted;
 - iv. A copy of the Minister's statement.
 - d. Where the agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per question b) nor was the agency granted an extension (as per question c) could the department provide:
 - i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted.
 - ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling of the agency's Annual Report.

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Answer:

1. The 2005-06 Annual Report for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) was presented to the Deputy President of the Senate out of sitting on 27 October 2006, thus discharging our responsibility within the prescribed timeframes set by PM&C's "Requirements for Annual Reports". The report was subsequently tabled with the House of Representatives on 31 October 2006 and with the Senate on the 6 November 2006.
2. N/A