

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 - 23 Oct 2008



Question: PM14

Outcome 1, Output 5

Topic: Legal advice regarding Victorian Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008

Hansard Page: F&PA 61

Senator Boswell asked: I will ask a series of questions and you can take them on notice. Did the department consider the legal advice provided by Mr Neil Young and Mr Peter Willis that found the Victorian bill was inconsistent with the human rights obligations set out in the ICCPR on this issue of conscientious objectors? You cannot answer that one?

Senator Faulkner-I suspect you are going to find, given the officials did not have any knowledge of the primary question you asked that it is going to be difficult to answer them.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet reviewed the legal advice provided with the correspondence to which Senator Boswell referred, in the course of its consideration of the correspondence. That correspondence has subsequently been referred to the Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP, for his consideration.