

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2009

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 3, Program 3.1

Topic: Printing and Communications Entitlement

Question reference number: F63

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

That is really just a reinforcement of what we have just been saying for the last 10 minutes. Minister, are you prepared to approach the Prime Minister and seek his consent to imposing the same rules on ministers and departments in relation to the definition of electioneering for any material printed or distributed by ministers or departments in the same definitional terms as is the requirement for members and senators as a result of the changes to these rules?

That is good, but I am asking you: will you specifically seek the Prime Minister's consent?

Answer:

The *Standards of Ministerial Ethics* (December 2007) already covers this area (and did so even prior to the issue of the new regulations) and is a framework robust enough to deal with any complaints.