

Opening Statement – PM&C

(where the Minister does not make an opening statement)

Talking Points

- Chair: To assist the Committee in its examination of portfolio Supplementary Budget Estimates, I would like to make an opening statement regarding changes to the PM&C portfolio since the last hearings in May.

Senior Executive Team

- I would like to advise the Committee of a number of changes to the department's senior executive team.
- I am pleased to advise the Committee that Dr Gordon de Brouwer has been appointed Acting Associate Secretary, filling the role previously undertaken by Dr Paul Grimes.
 - The Committee may be aware that Dr Grimes has been appointed Acting Secretary to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Dr Grimes will act in place of Ms Robyn Kruk who is on extended leave due to illness.
- Dr Wendy Southern has been appointed Acting Deputy Secretary Governance, filling the position previously occupied by Glenys Beauchamp.
 - Members may be aware that Glenys has been appointed acting Secretary to the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, a new department of state within the PM&C portfolio.
- Ms Rebecca Cross has been appointed Acting Deputy Secretary (Social Policy).
- Finally, Mr Richard Eccles has been appointed Deputy Secretary, Arts and Sports.
 - Mr Eccles is available to answer questions about the detail of the programs, functions and portfolio agencies associated with arts and sports group.
- These changes in the senior executive team are largely a consequence of the new Administrative Arrangements Orders to which I now turn.

PM&C Portfolio Structure

- As a result of the Administrative Arrangements Order issued on 14 September 2010, the department and broader portfolio is undergoing a number of machinery of government changes.

Regional Australia Department

- A new department of state has been created within the PM&C portfolio – the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, with Ms Beauchamp as acting Secretary. The Prime Minister has appointed the Hon Simon Crean MP as Minister of this new department within the portfolio.
- Questions on regional policy and programs should be directed to the officers of Department of Regional Australia who will appear separately to PM&C under a different part of the Estimates program.

Arts and Sports

- PM&C has been given responsibility for cultural affairs, which includes support for the Arts, as well as responsibility for sports and recreation.
- The Prime Minister has appointed the Hon Simon Crean MP, as Minister for the Arts and Senator the Hon Mark Arbib as Minister for Sports.
- A new Sports and Arts Group is being created within the Department. This new Group will be responsible for two new Portfolio Budget Outcomes relating to arts and sports.

Cyber Policy, Digital Productivity and Non-Profit Sector

- In addition to the arts and sports roles, PM&C is also taking on a number of other new functions.
- The Prime Minister has asked PM&C to help facilitate and more rapid uptake of new **digital productivity** across key service sectors and has appointed Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy as Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Digital Productivity within the PM&C portfolio.
- The department's work now includes providing a single point of coordination and advice on **cyber policy**. This work will be undertaken within PM&C by the National Security Chief Information Officer in close cooperation with other agencies.

- A new **Office of the Non-Profit Sector** will be created in the department, within existing the Office of Work and Family. This new office will include coverage of volunteering and the National Compact with the Third Sector.
 - The Minister for Social Inclusion, the Hon Tanya Plibersek, will be responsible for the new office.

[IF NEEDED - New Ministers]

- I would like also to draw the Committee's attention to two existing areas within the department that have new Ministerial responsibility:
 - The **Special Minister of State for the Public Service and Integrity** is the Hon Gary Gray MP.
 - The **Minister for Privacy and FOI** is the Hon Brendan O'Connor
- The Prime Minister has also appointed the Hon Mark Dreyfus MP as Cabinet Secretary and Senator Kate Lundy as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Official Establishments

- Finally there have been some changes to the allocation of responsibility for the Prime Minister's official residences, the Lodge and Kirribilli.
- In line with the Department of Finance and Deregulation's role as the Australian Government's asset and property manager, responsibility for property management of the Official Establishments has been transferred to Finance.
 - This includes responsibility for major works and ongoing maintenance, related procurement and contract.
 - PM&C remains responsible for the day to day management of the properties and the staff employed at the official residences. Questions on these matters can be directed to PM&C under Program 2.1 Official and Ceremonial Support.