

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 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM30

Asked By: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Topic: Health Reform - PMO Briefings

Type of Question: FPA 82, 18 October

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Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-More precisely: who in the Prime Minister's office received briefings in relation to health and health reform?

Mr Rimmer-We talk with the Prime Minister and her office about the national health reform plan on a very regular basis, as you would expect.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-Does she have a health adviser?

Senator Chris Evans-Her staff have been in the process of being appointed. We do not normally identify staff, but the department would have an adviser. They brief the Prime Minister and her office on the reform process. Your first question went to the question of the incoming brief. I suspect it is reasonable to say that the PM's incoming brief would have canvassed the issue as part of the broad incoming brief for the Prime Minister as it would have for the opposition's version.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS-Perhaps if you could take on notice, not necessarily names, but whether health and health advisers in the Prime Minister's office were also briefed.

Answer:

The Department has provided briefing to the Prime Minister in relation to the National Health and Hospitals Network reform agenda, including as part of the Incoming Government Brief. No separate briefing has been provided to health advisers in the Prime Minister's Office.