

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: PM31

Asked By: Senator Macdonald

Topic: Review of the Lobbying Code

Type of Question: FPA 83, 18 October

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of pages: 2

Senator IAN MACDONALD-When do you expect that the outcome of the review will be known?

Dr Southern-I am not sure of that. The closing date for the comments on the discussion paper has only just occurred, and some lobbyists and some people who want to make submissions have asked if they could have a short extension of time. So we are still gathering information. We will have a close look at that and then brief the minister.

Senator IAN MACDONALD-Can you tell me how many submissions have been received?

Dr Southern-We have received 19 submissions to date.

Senator IAN MACDONALD-What is the general thrust of those submissions?

Dr Southern-I have not read them all, I must admit, and so I am not able to tell you. I can take that on notice.

Answer:

The discussion paper invited comment on a number of issues:

- the creation of an industry association or an industry consultative group;
- a proposal that lobbyist entities disclose on the Register of Lobbyists the details of any lobbyists who were Ministers, former ministerial staff or senior Australian Public Service or Australian Defence Force personnel.

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- increasing the period of the ban on former Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries undertaking lobbying activities from eighteen months to two years, and on matters that they had official dealing in their last two years in office.
- extending the ban on former Cabinet Ministers to all matters, not just those matters where they had official dealings.

Comment was also sought on a range of matters arising from the roundtable meeting on lobbying held in March this year. Those matters included:

- extension of the Code and Register to all in-house lobbyists;
- different requirements among States; and
- sanctions for breaches of the Code.

Twenty submissions have been received to date, 19 of which were from organisations that engage with government representatives for the purposes of conducting lobbying activities and one from a member of the public. The submissions cover the range of issues raised in the discussion paper.