

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: PM32

Asked By: Senator Macdonald

Topic: Lobbyist Conduct

Type of Question: FPA 83-86, 18 October

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

Number of pages: 2

Senator IAN MACDONALD-Has it been necessary so far for any action to be taken to caution or reprimand or register lobbyists or withdraw registration?

Has anyone not played the game and been penalised for it?

Dr Southern-I will check with colleagues who are here. But, to my recollection, we have had a couple of names removed from the register, but that has been more around sort of technical issues to do with their registration, rather than anything more serious. But let me just check.

Senator IAN MACDONALD-Okay.

Dr Southern-I might have to take that one on notice because we are not entirely sure of the correct response. But, as I said, I understood that the issues that have been raised have largely been technical, but we will take it on notice to check for you.

Senator IAN MACDONALD-Perhaps if I could just ask you to report back to the committee, on notice, on when you expect that there might be some resolution-in broad terms; I am not after a particular date.

Answer:

The Department has identified one instance of failure to comply with the Code. In late 2009 a registered entity failed to correctly update client details on the Register. This was drawn to their attention and they corrected their entry.

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The closing date for comments on the Possible Reforms to the Lobbying Code of Conduct and Register of Lobbyists Discussion Paper was 30 September 2010. Several respondents requested extensions to that time and the Department continued to accept submissions up to the end of October. The Department is preparing briefing for the Government on the submissions received.