

**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: PM33**

**Asked By: Senator Ludlam**

**Topic: National Security Legislation Monitor**

**Type of Question: FPA 87, 18 October**

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

**Number of pages: 1**

**Dr McCarthy-The National Security Legislation Monitor will need to be someone with a strong background in national security issues, a person of high standing. It is a part-time role, as you know, Senator. That is the reason why we were not required to advertise in the same way as for Public Service positions more generally. The view was that a good field of candidates would be able to be developed for consideration.**

**Senator LUDLAM-How many did you shortlist and subsequently interview?**

**Dr McCarthy-I do not have that information in front of me.**

**Senator LUDLAM-Is that something you are able to provide for us?**

**Dr McCarthy-I can take that question on notice.**

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and the Attorney-General's Department developed an initial list of 30 possible candidates. In consultation with the former Cabinet Secretary, Senator the Hon Joseph Ludwig, this was ultimately reduced to a short-list of seven. These candidates were invited to submit an application to the National Security Adviser. A list of those individuals interested in being considered for the position was subsequently provided to the Prime Minister. The Government has approached a preferred candidate and negotiations on the appointment are underway. Once those negotiations have

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concluded, the Government will consult with the Opposition on the proposed appointment, in accordance with the legislative requirements.