

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: PM59

Asked By: Senator Humphries

Topic: Australia Council - Status

Type of Question: FPA 6, 19 October

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Senator HUMPHRIES-I see that the minister has indicated a number of thoughts about where his portfolio should be going, including questioning whether we should continue to even have an Australia Council. He says: I think the council has done a good job but I don't know where we go to from here ... I'm open to discussions. Can you tell us where we stand with those discussions at the moment? Has the minister begun discussions about what should happen to the Australia Council?

Senator Arbib-I have to say that I am unaware, Senator, but I am happy to check on that for you and get you some information.

Answer:

The Government is committed to finalising a National Cultural Policy and, as part of that process cultural portfolio agencies, including the Australia Council, will be consulted on how best to achieve the Government's cultural objectives.