

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: PM8

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Topic: Role of PM&C

Type of Question: FPA 50, 18 October

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

Number of pages: 1

Senator ABETZ-Minister, can you take on notice for me: how can the Prime Minister claim that PM&C's role has changed if PM&C still has a strategic policy unit second-guessing line agencies and undertaking all the things that it did under Mr Rudd? It seems that there has been no significant change, albeit she tried to dine out on that on 8 July?

Senator Chris Evans-Senator, I am not sure we have answered the questions in the political context created but I am certainly happy to answer the question in terms of changes made. I think there have been some changes in the way cabinet and other processes will operate, and the cabinet and committees and those sorts of things, most of which I am not at liberty to discuss. I think Mr Lewis's evidence was that the role of PM&C has not changed-

Mr Lewis-That is correct.

Senator Chris Evans-because their role is very clear, but each Prime Minister brings new emphases and new ways of working, and Ms Gillard has done that.

Answer:

See answer to question PM9.