

**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: PM9**

**Asked By: Senator Abetz**

**Topic: Role of PM&C - Media Report 8 July**

**Type of Question: FPA 51, 18 October**

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

**Number of pages:**

**Senator ABETZ-The media report of 8 July-and take that on notice as to whether Ms Gillard accepts that as a correct record-asserts that she would bring PM&C back to its primary function of coordination and providing her with advice, rather than trying to initiate and oversee all main policies, which was, at the time, taken to be a criticism of the strategic policy unit. That has not been disbanded; it is still in existence. So one wonders how all this marries up.**

**Senator Chris Evans-I think there are a couple of quantum leaps in logic there, in terms of the linkages, but certainly departments have primary responsibility for policy in their area. Anyway, we will get you an answer to the claim.**

**Answer:**

PM&C's primary function remains unchanged: it is to provide advice to, and support for the Prime Minister in her capacity as head of the Government and the Cabinet. In performing this function, PM&C's major tasks include developing timely, well-argued, robust and forward-looking policy advice, coordinating policy development through the Cabinet process, supporting the implementation of key government policies and programs and supporting the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, the Cabinet Secretary and the other ministers in the portfolio in managing government business.