

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: PM99

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Topic: Election commitments - Status

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

- a) **What is the status of each election commitment from the 2007 election within the portfolio?**
- b) **Which 2007 election commitments are experiencing slippages? Why? Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates? What are the implications of this slippage?**
- c) **Are there any 2007 election commitments that will not be implemented? If yes, please provide details. Were departmental resources provided to implement these commitments? How much? What will happen to the funding now?**

Answer:

- a) The majority of the Government's 2007 election commitments relevant to the Prime Minister's portfolio have been implemented. A small number of commitments are still being implemented, while three commitments will not be implemented (see part c).
- b) The implementation of the Government's 2007 election commitments relevant to the Prime Minister's portfolio is proceeding broadly in line with announced timetables.
- c) There are three 2007 election commitments the Government has announced it will not implement:

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- i. in December 2008, the Government announced as part of Australia's first National Security Statement that it would not establish a Department of Homeland Security. Consistent with the findings of the Report of the Review of Homeland and Border Security, the Government decided to strengthen leadership, strategic direction and coordination among existing agencies, including through the appointment of a National Security Adviser.
- ii. the Government's commitment to establish a Combined Action Cabinet Committee on Indigenous Affairs was superseded by the proposal for a bipartisan Joint Policy Commission announced in the Prime Minister's apology speech to Indigenous Australians in February 2008. The Commission was to be established in May 2008, but did not proceed when agreement on membership could not be reached with the Opposition.
- iii. in July 2010, the Prime Minister announced that the Government had no plans to pursue a referendum on fixed four-year terms.

There were no departmental resources allocated to the implementation of these election commitments.