

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARINGS

PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET PORTFOLIO

Department/Agency: Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Outcome: 1

Topic: New Portfolio

Senator: MACDONALD

Question reference number: 4

Type of question: Hansard F&A page 26-27, Tuesday 19 October 2010

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

Senator MCDONALD First of all, I am just curious as to why the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government has been moved to Prime Minister and Cabinet. As an outsider, it suggests that the Prime Minister has no confidence in those she has appointed to deal with this area. But perhaps there is another explanation.

Senator Sherry—Well, that is a decision for the government of the day. The government of the day makes that decision, not the department itself. ...

Senator Sherry—Thank you, Chair, again. As I say, it was a decision of the Prime Minister. I do not agree with the assertion in your question, which you have claimed would indicate a lack of confidence in my colleague Mr Crean. What I would argue is that, to the contrary, it shows a renewed and added focus by this government on the issues of regional Australia. Beyond that, I am happy to take your question on notice and see if Minister Crean can add anything further.

Number of pages: 1

Answer:

It was a decision of the Prime Minister that the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government (DRARDLG) be established in the Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio.