

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.4 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Dr Ken Henry's appointment - discussions

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 1

Type of Question: F&PA, p 52, p. 56, 17 October

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Senator RYAN: What discussions took place between the department, or the Prime Minister's office, and Dr Henry regarding his appointment prior to his retirement or resignation, as the case may be, from the department?

Ms Leon: I would have to take that on notice. I do not have those details with me.

...

2. Senator RYAN: Were there any discussions between Dr Henry and the department or the Prime Minister or anyone in her office regarding his appointment and the terms of that specifically relating to his opportunity for other work, such as other board appointments?

Answer:

1. Senior officers of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet undertook discussions with Dr Henry in relation to further work for the Commonwealth after the expiry of his appointment as Secretary of the Treasury. These discussions took place before the Prime Minister's announcement on 21 December 2010 and between then and the expiry of his term as Secretary. The Prime Minister, in her media release of 21 December 2010, noted that she would be having further discussions with Dr Henry concerning future work.

2. The discussions with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet were undertaken in the knowledge that Dr Henry would be taking an initial, lengthy period of leave and would want to work part time to allow him to consider other roles.