

**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:** Asian century white paper discussions with PM&C

**Senator:** Senator Ryan

**Question reference number:** 2

**Type of Question:** FPA, p 54, 17 October

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator RYAN: I would appreciate the advice and, if there were discussions about that, what those entailed? Was Dr Henry consulted by the department or by the office regarding this specific project which he is now tasked with prior to its announcement by the Prime Minister?

Dr de Brouwer: Yes, there was discussion with Dr Henry about the subject matter.

Senator RYAN: When was that discussion?

Dr de Brouwer: I do not know the exact dates, Senator, but I will take that on notice. In the lead-up to that announcement, there was significant discussion with Dr Henry about the subject matter.

Senator RYAN: I would appreciate the date of that discussion and are you referring to one with the department and Dr Henry or?

**Answer:**

Officers of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet discussed the subject matter of the proposed White Paper with Dr Henry on the following occasions:

- Dr Ian Watt, Secretary – 14 September 2011 and 26 September 2011.
- Dr Gordon de Brouwer, Associate Secretary – 14 September 2011.

Dr Henry discussed issues related to the White Paper with the Prime Minister's Deputy Chief of Staff before the Prime Minister's speech to the Asialink and Asia Society Lunch, Melbourne on 28 September 2011.

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The Prime Minister discussed the possible Australia in the Asian Century White Paper with Dr Ken Henry and the Secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Dr Ian Watt on 26 September 2011.