

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: Ken Henry - parliamentary committees

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 7

Type of Question: F & PA, p 63, 17 October

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

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Question:

Senator RYAN: Does this method of appointment of Dr Henry preclude him appearing before parliamentary committees in any way? Does a parliamentary committee have the capacity to call Dr Henry to appear? He is not an officer of the APS but he is bound by the APS code of conduct. I am just trying to fit him in.

Senator CHRIS EVANS: You mean in his role as--

Senator RYAN: In his role as a special advisor to the Prime Minister.

Senator Chris Evans: advisor under section 67 of the Constitution? Do you have any advice on that Ms Leon?

Ms Leon: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is not aware of any reason why Dr Henry's method of appointment would affect the capacity of a parliamentary committee to call him to appear.