

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Costing of Green and Independent policies - time spent

Senator: Senator Cormann

Question reference number: 12

Type of Question: FandPA, p 68, 17 October

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator CORMANN: I have a couple of quick questions in relation to the costing of Green and Independent policies. How much time has the department spent since September 2010 in dealing with the consideration of policies for the Independents and the Greens, as per agreements made with them by the Prime Minister and the Treasurer in order to obtain their support to form government?

Mr Hazlehurst: I would have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) does not record the amount of time spent on the consideration of policies proposed by the Australian Greens (Greens) and Independent Members of Parliament that have agreements with the Government ('the Independents'). The Fiscal and Taxation Policy Branch coordinates costing and analysis of proposals submitted by the Independents and Greens, with costings usually performed by either the Department of Finance and Deregulation or the Department of Treasury. The Branch does not have an officer dedicated solely to Independent and Greens matters.