

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Mr McClintock's Replacement

Senator: Senator Payne

Question reference number: 5

Type of Question: FPA, P70-71

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator PAYNE: In relation to the membership of the COAG Reform Council, I understand that Mr McClintock, after arduous duty, has indicated he will be resigning by the end of the year or as soon as a replacement is found. Can you update us on the process of the appointment of a replacement for Mr McClintock and when that is likely to be finalised?

Ms Cross: I think the process is underway in terms of considering who replacements might be, but there have not been any formal approaches made. So it is in its early stages but we would hope to have a replacement identified this year, if not early next year.

Senator PAYNE: How is it intended that the individual be recruited—is it by public advertisement or is it in a different fashion?

Ms Cross: It would be the normal way for those sorts of senior appointments, where a list of names would be put together of appropriate people, and then decisions would be taken on the basis of that list of names, possibly with others being added. Then there is often a process where you also get cabinet approval, or the Prime Minister can approve the appointment.

Senator PAYNE: Is that the way Ms Middleton came onto the council to replace Mr Corish?

Ms Cross: It depends on which position they are filling. Some of the positions are nominated by states and territories; some have particular expertise such as understanding regional issues. Some of them are Commonwealth positions; others are put forward by states and territories. I believe that one was agreed with the states and territories.

Mr Hazelhurst: Yes, that one was agreed jointly.

Senator PAYNE: Was that the regional and remote experience position?

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Mr Hazelhurst: That is right.

Senator PAYNE: I am not sure, Ms Cross, whether you said in those responses when you expected the process for replacing Mr McClintock, who of course might be regarded as irreplaceable, to be finalised?

Ms Cross: I said we would hope to have a replacement identified before the end of the year or early next year.

Senator PAYNE: If Mr McClintock chooses to depart before a replacement is appointed, is there a process for an acting chair to be appointed?

Ms Cross: I believe there is, but I can check that for you.

Answer:

The Deputy Chair of the COAG Reform Council is able to chair the Council in the absence of the Chair or if the position of Chair is vacant.