

DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET — STAFF — SECURITY CLEARANCE

1543. Hon Tjorn Sibma to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

The budget papers demonstrate that the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) is engaged in serious work on security and emergency matters, and I ask:

- (a) is it still departmental policy that senior DPC officers undergo a national security clearance vetting process;
- (b) which positions within DPC require security vetting and to what level of clearance; and
- (c) have all individuals appointed to these positions undertaken this security vetting to the appropriate clearance level and, if not, why not?

Hon Sue Ellery replied:

- (a)–(c) DPC officers that have, or may have, a need to access classified information are required to undergo a national security clearance vetting process. Until these officers receive a national security clearance they do not access classified information, unless the Australian Government approves a short term access arrangement.