



Department of Culture and the Arts
Government of Western Australia
State Library of Western Australia

Submission 19

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Enquiries: Lesley Smith
9427 3128

2 November 2005

Mr Jason Sherd
Secretary
Joint Committee on Publications
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sherd

Inquiry into the Distribution of the Parliamentary Papers Series Invitation to make a Submission

The State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) highly values the Parliamentary Papers Series (PPS) and is delighted to note that there is no intention of ceasing the provision of one free copy to the libraries detailed on the guidelines. In common with most state libraries in Australia we hold a run of papers from 1901 through to the present time including indexes.

Members of the public regularly come into the SLWA with enquiries regarding parliamentary papers; the resource is needed and appreciated as a valuable source of information by our clients who include members of the public, researchers, authors, business owners and students.

There are various practical observations that need to be made:

- When the papers are received they require binding to facilitate handling within the library
- The papers take some time to arrive for example - the 2000 series was received in the State Library of WA on 27th June 2002, 2001 on 24th February 2003, 2002 on 28 April 2004, and we have yet to receive 2003.
- The papers are of necessity large, bulky items that require significant amounts of shelving
- The indexes relating to the papers are not extensive

- Many of the papers consist of Annual Reports

As indicated on the web site (<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/parlpapers.htm>):

“All papers and documents presented to Parliament are considered to be public and, by arrangement, may be inspected at the offices of the Clerks”.

This makes it clear that the PPS is required to be held as part of the history of Australia as well as being a legal record of funded organizations.

Papers that were not printed are extremely difficult to locate and some consideration should be given to making these available digitally.

The PPS should be available digitally via the Internet. A digital archive of the papers should be created thus allowing easy access to the information for all Australians, as well as ensuring that many resources will be saved across the country in terms of binding, storage, processing and shipping. Adding metadata tags to the papers will ensure that information will be more easily located.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Allen
Chief Executive Officer and State Librarian