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TO: SENATORS AND MEMBERS

Hansard as a record in the 21st century

1 In this age of instant information, stakeholders expect faster access to the Hansard record. Given the availability of the audio visual record of parliamentary proceedings, the Department of Parliamentary Services considers it timely to review the use, relevance and appropriate format for the Hansard record.

2 Accordingly, DPS has begun a project to assess the future direction for the Hansard record. The project aims to report on issues such as:

- (a) how verbatim should the transcripts be;
- (b) electronic or hardcopy formats;
- (c) the role of the audio visual record; and
- (d) future delivery methods and directions for the Hansard record.

3 The project is guided by the Hansard Project Advisory Group comprising: Assistant Secretary, Content Management Branch, DPS (Chair); Clerk Assistant (Table) House of Representatives; and Clerk Assistant (Procedure) Senate.

4 In order to gather feedback on these issues, DPS will seek comment from Senators and Members via an online survey, and a follow up personal interview if requested.

5 Once all the data has been gathered and analysed we will submit the findings to the Presiding Officers, including any proposals for change. These findings are expected to be available in the first half of 2011.

6 The input of Senators and Members into this exciting project will be critical in helping DPS develop the most appropriate format for the Hansard record over the years to come.

David Kenny
Deputy Secretary