

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Senate

Budget Estimates

26-30 May 2014

Question: 8

Topic: Odgers

Written: 5 June 2014

Senator BERNARDI asked:

The House of Representatives Practice does not feature the name of the editor on the publication, while *Odgers* does display the names of the editors (Harry Evans and Rosemary Laing) on the cover.

1. Why the different approach?
2. It is conceivable that every Senate Clerk will eventually have their name included on *Odgers*?
3. How many copies of the 13th Edition have been produced and at what cost?
4. Does the Senate make a profit or a loss from the sale of *Odgers*?

Answer:

1. Both publications feature the names of their editors in accordance with normal bibliographical practices.
2. The current editor cannot speak for future editors. The approach taken in the 13th edition is explained in the Preface to that edition.
3. 776 hard copies of the 13th edition were produced a cost of \$19,638.

The 13th edition was the first to be produced as an e-book which can be downloaded from the website in a form suitable for e-book readers and other mobile devices. This version of the book is also available on a USB stick and sold through the Senate gift store for \$10.

4. *Odgers* is produced to enable the department to meet part of its core function of providing advisory and administrative support services to enable the Senate and senators to fulfil their representative and legislative duties. It ensures that advice provided is consistent and based on precedent and principle.

Odgers also informs the department's function to promote public awareness of the Senate and its work. The retail price of the hard copy publication is designed to recover some direct production costs. The availability of the e-book version free of charge reflects those core functions.