

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Senate

Budget Estimates

26-30 May 2014

Question: 10

Topic: Parliament House Displays for the public areas

Written: 5 June 2014

Senator BERNARDI asked:

1. What public displays has the Department of the Senate been preparing?
2. When are they due to be moved into the public areas of Parliament House?
3. What is the process for selecting the subject for display? Who makes the decision on what is being developed for future displays?

Answer:

1. The department is currently involved in the updating of existing displays.
2. Updates occur as new material is required.
3. In the past, subjects for temporary display were selected to reflect landmarks in parliamentary history, such as the 20th anniversary of the Senate Committee System or the centenary of various events in the Federation story. Longer term displays have reflected the core work of the Parliament, such as the legislative process, or the interests of significant groups of members (which is how the temporary display on women in the Federal Parliament became longer term and now includes an interactive touch-screen). It is not clear whether past practices will continue. A review of the "visitor experience" was undertaken by the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) and, in the meantime, the department agreed not to pursue a major extension of the current display around the Magna Carta (which will be 800 years old next year), pending the outcome and any new directions emanating from the review.

The outcome of the review should be raised with DPS.