

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2009

Question: PM13(a-d)

Topic: Situation Room (Parliament House Briefing Room)

Type of Question: Written

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The Information Circular (No. 2009/44) also said that the Dept of House of Reps was identifying options to relocate the small Ministerial mail room.

- a) What did the Department decide?**
- b) What are the details?**
- c) The MG18 staff were going to be located to 'temporary accommodation'. Where is this temporary accommodation?**
- d) How are the plans progressing for building the new office space north of the Staff Dining Room?**

Answer: a) The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) advises that the preferred location for the relocation of the small Ministerial mail room is a small office area on the first floor of the Ministerial Wing of Parliament House, which is currently occupied on an occasional basis by staff from the Security Coordination Branch (SCB) of the Attorney-General's Department (AGD). Discussions with AGD are in progress to find alternative occasional space for SCB staff in the Ministerial Wing.

b) As above.

c) As above.

d) DPS advises that the project to construct new office accommodation for DPS in the area to the North of the staff cafeteria has commenced. AGD will be contributing up to \$1.1m to compensate for the relocation of the DPS staff on a temporary basis from MG18 until the new office space is completed. Design work on the project is expected to commence in late-November 2009, with construction expected to be completed by December 2010.