

## Opening remarks Senate Estimates

If I may make a brief statement, I will not trespass long upon the committee's time.

Having been in this role a little over two years now, I wish to highlight a few areas of activity and achievement that have been of interest to this committee.

Much of our work occurs unseen. We have a major capital works program well underway to renew the building's 30 year old infrastructure such as boilers, chillers, air conditioning, electrical and fire safety systems and the vast network of lifts.

Some of our work is highly visible – like the linkway and skylight glazing, and security upgrade works. This is undoubtedly complex and disruptive work and we appreciate the patience of our building occupants while this important work continues.

We have introduced world-class innovations such as live captioning of parliamentary proceedings.

We commenced a substantial catering and events operation in an effort to improve the quality and value of services to the building. Well over 80% of feedback reflects satisfaction.

We have well exceeded our Indigenous contract engagement target within the first 6 months of 2017-18.

In conjunction with local organisations with urban beekeeping experience, we established beehives in our landscape to contribute to food biosecurity.

Our improvements in our planning and reporting is evidenced through positive reviews by the Department of Finance regarding our annual performance statement and corporate plan.

Through this period of intense activity, we have been maturing culturally too.

We have developed strong and productive working relationships with our colleagues in the other parliamentary departments.

Our joint security model with the AFP is working effectively and continues to mature since it was implemented in 2014. We are working collaboratively to revise and update a large volume of security policies and procedures.

Our establishment of a design integrity framework and a strong working relationship with administrators of Architect Romaldo Giurgola's moral rights, has improved project outcomes, and delivered 12 revised draft chapters of the Central Reference Document as the permanent record of the Architect's design intent for Parliament House.

I recently appointed our first architectural historian to embed design integrity within our DNA for the aspirational 200 year lifespan of this building.

We have implemented a program to develop the capabilities of our future leaders. More than a third of our Executive Level One staff have benefited from leadership development programs.

The strength of our recent recruitment activity is a strong indicator that we are increasingly seen as an employer of choice.

While we still have more to do, I am pleased to say that our reforms are well advanced.

In closing, I wish to place on record my appreciation to my DPS colleagues for their achievements in supporting parliamentarians, the work of the parliament and this magnificent building.

Chair, as you will be aware the Parliamentary Librarian, Dr Dianne Heriot is on leave following an unfortunate knee injury. Jonathan Curtis is currently acting-Parliamentary Librarian and is present in the event you have any questions for the Library.