

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—24 February 2014**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Crockery**

Question: **139**

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 April 2014

Ms Mills: Senator, the tradition, as it has been, has not extended to the Department of the Senate providing all crockery from its own budget and under its own arrangements for senators. So I cannot comment on whether your suite has been upgraded. It has been a tradition that the Department of Parliamentary Services provides crockery and other utensils for the House of Representatives and the ministerial suites. At the time of last estimates we spoke about the crockery that we had purchased for the ministerial suites. I am not aware of us having received an order from the House of Representatives recently for any upgrade, but I can take that on notice.

Senator FAULKNER: So where is the demarcation line between the chamber departments and DPS in relation to this material being placed in members' and senators' suites. What do you do and what do they do?

Ms Mills: My understanding is that the Department of the Senate takes full responsibility for the provision of crockery and utensils in senators' suites and does not come to the Department of Parliamentary Services for assistance with that. In the case of the Department of the House of Representatives, they do in fact identify what they require and have traditionally come to the Department of Parliamentary Services for the procurement of that crockery. I am not aware of that having happened recently, but I can take that on notice.

Senator FAULKNER: Okay. So all the procurements are handled, effectively, but the Black Rod, as far as you understand—

Ms Mills: For the senators.

Answer

In October 2014 the House of Representatives requested additional crockery and cutlery for use in the members' suites.