

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Hansard**

Question: **166**

Written **Senator Faulkner**

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

1. How many staff are employed in Hansard? Please provide an organisation chart for DPS and Hansard.
2. How many Hansard editors are there? Please provide a breakdown of full-time and part-time positions, and permanent and contract staff.
3. Of the permanent staff - when were they employed, what level are they working at and in what positions?
4. Of the contract staff - when were they employed, what level are they working at, in what positions and how long are their contracts?
5. What is the process for employing new Hansard editors?
6. Given the specialised skills of Hansard editors, what aptitude testing and training is done for new editors?
7. Does DPS do workstation health and safety assessments for Hansard staff? If so, when was it last done? If not, why not?
8. What workstation health and safety information and assessments are provided for new Hansard staff?
9. What was the reason for the June 2013 Hansard Trial?
10. What was being tested in the Hansard Trial? Was that set out before the trial commenced?
11. What were the benchmarks for the Hansard Trial? Were they documented before the trial commenced?
12. Who is assessing the outcomes of the Hansard Trial?
13. If, as the Report on the Trial states on page 1 in the Findings, “The evaluation of the trial found that Hansard met its time frames and that the trial had no discernible impact on the accuracy of the transcripts produced” why is there another trial being considered?
14. If, as stated by the Secretary of DPS at Estimates on 24 February, the “first trial was indeed something that was set up to really see what issues might emerge”, and a range of issues have emerged which are being addressed, why is there another trial being considered?
15. Noting there is extensive feedback from Hansard staff that the editor’s presence in the Chamber enhances rather than inhibits their productivity, including concerns noted at pp. 30, 35, 37, 43, 50, 59 and 60 of the Hansard Trial Report, what are DPS comments in relation to each of those concerns? Please provide a substantive response to each concern.
16. Why did the second paragraph under the subheading ‘Findings’ on page 1 of the Report of the June 2013 Trial highlight the “eight positive comments about not being in the chambers” but ignore the many negative and mixed comments in 21 of the 29 responses?
17. Given that having a Hansard editor in the chamber ensures there is a live witness who can observe and hear speeches, log proceedings, begin editing work, ensure nuances in speeches are properly recorded, hear interjections that may be missed on Parlview and otherwise ensure the complete accuracy of Hansard, how is DPS balancing those advantages against the perceived benefits from having the Hansard editor seated elsewhere? Please provide a substantive response, considering each of the advantages noted in this question.
18. Noting the 13 January 2014 letter from the Clerk of the House of Representatives regarding ‘Hansard policies’ which is attached to the Hansard Trial Report, please provide a copy of DPS’s response.
19. Has DPS costed or received advice and / or costings on alternative ways of producing Hansard? If so, please provide details.
20. Is DPS considering providing live captioning of Hansard? If so, what research, advice or information has been received? Who is doing that research or giving advice? Please provide a copy of research / advice received and a summary of that research / advice.

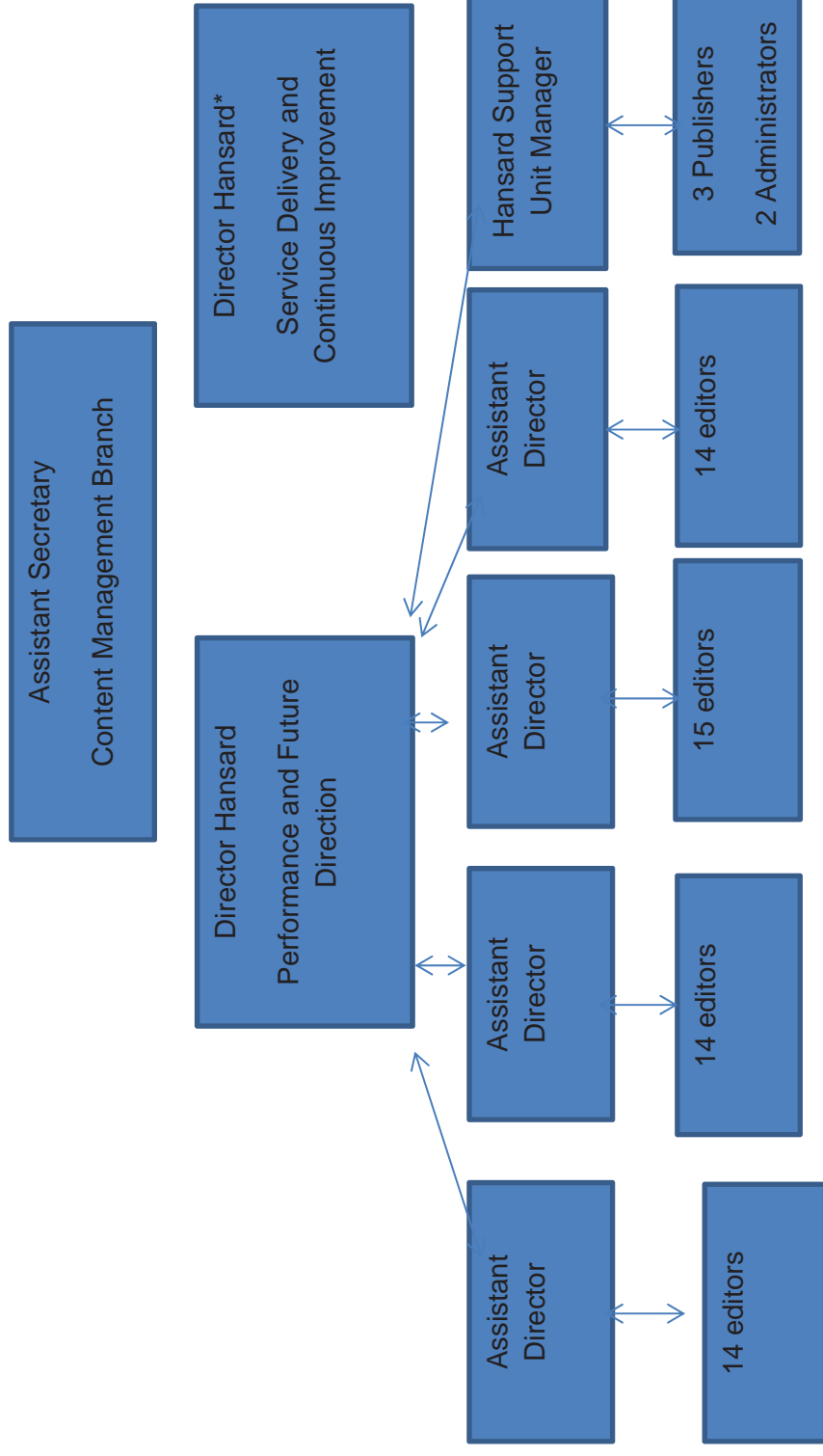
21. Has DPS received costings for the provision of captioning Hansard? Given the Parliament sometimes has three chambers sitting concurrently, sometimes up to 10.30 pm, are there options being considered as part of the costings?
22. Given Hansard is available in text form within about 3 hours, does that suffice under the Disability Discrimination Act and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)? If not, why not?
23. Is DPS considering recruitment to do the captioning work? What staffing options are being considered?

Answer

1. As at 31 March, 2014 the total number of staff employed in Hansard is 69.

The DPS Organisational Chart and Hansard structure are below.

Hansard structure as at 7 April, 2014

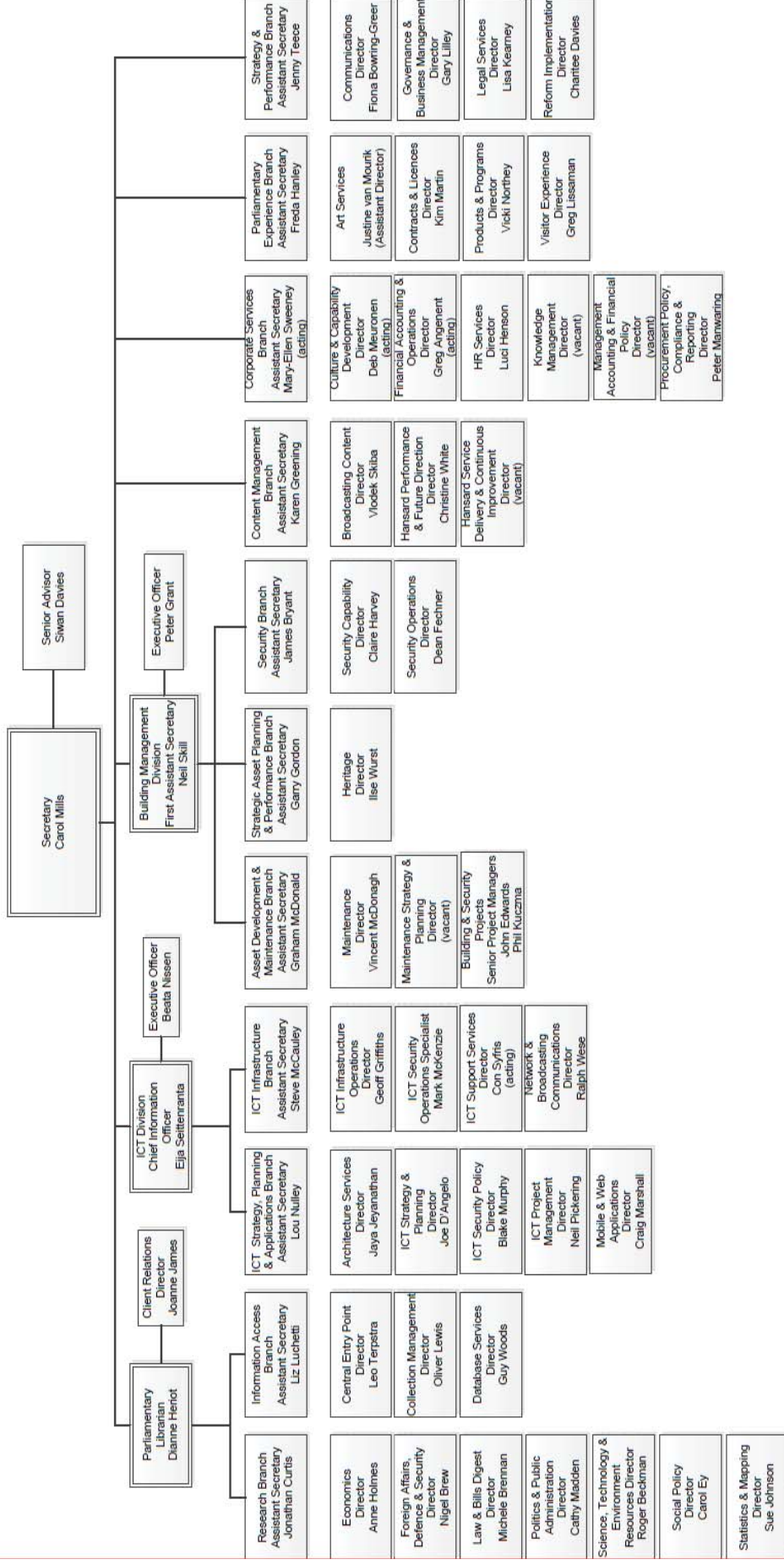


*Director currently on leave



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES

Organisation Chart
6 March 2014



2. There are currently 57 Hansard editors and the breakdown of editor positions is as follows:
 - thirty-one permanent full-time editors (three of whom are currently working part time hours and one is on leave without pay);
 - eight permanent part-time editors;
 - three permanent sessional editors;
 - seven permanent sessional trainee editors; and
 - eight non-ongoing sessional trainee editors.
3. The table below lists all permanent Hansard staff as at 31 March 2014.

*The date provided is the date each individual commenced in a permanent position with Hansard.

*Staff employment date	Level	Position
1. 31/10/2011	PEL2	Director
2. 14/01/1992	PEL2	Director
3. 01/02/2010	PEL1	Assistant Director
4. 05/01/2009	PEL1	Assistant Director
5. 24/02/2009	PEL1	Assistant Director
6. 07/10/1997	PEL1	Assistant Director
7. 20/02/1989	PSL6	Manager Hansard Support Unit
8. 01/01/1999	PSL6	Editor
9. 06/08/2001	PSL6	Editor
10. 04/11/2002	PSL6	Editor
11. 09/06/2009	PSL6	Editor
12. 03/07/2000	PSL6	Editor
13. 14/01/2002	PSL6	Editor
14. 29/01/2007	PSL6	Editor
15. 09/06/2009	PSL6	Editor
16. 15/05/2001	PSL6	Editor
17. 08/10/2002	PSL6	Editor
18. 02/04/2007	PSL6	Editor
19. 18/05/1992	PSL6	Editor
20. 17/10/1994	PSL6	Editor
21. 22/05/1995	PSL6	Editor
22. 03/07/2000	PSL6	Editor
23. 08/10/2007	PSL6	Editor
24. 04/03/2002	PSL6	Editor
25. 28/04/2003	PSL6	Editor
26. 07/04/2008	PSL6	Editor
27. 08/10/2007	PSL6	Editor
28. 16/01/2012	PSL6	Editor
29. 02/04/2001	PSL6	Editor
30. 28/01/1997	PSL6	Editor
31. 07/05/2007	PSL6	Editor
32. 12/06/2001	PSL6	Editor
33. 07/05/2007	PSL6	Editor
34. 28/04/2003	PSL6	Editor
35. 14/01/2002	PSL6	Editor
36. 22/06/1989	PEL1	Editor
37. 07/09/1994	PSL6	Editor
38. 07/03/1991	PSL6	Editor
39. 16/05/2005	PSL6	Editor
40. 16/05/2005	PSL6	Editor
41. 29/10/1990	PSL6	Editor
42. 05/01/2009	PSL6	Editor
43. 12/05/2009	PSL6	Editor
44. 14/01/2002	PSL6	Editor
45. 08/05/1988	PSL6	Editor
46. 05/01/2009	PSL6	Editor

47. 16/01/2012	PSL6	Editor
48. 16/08/2004	PSL6	Editor
49. 09/06/2009	PSL6	Editor
50. 29/10/2012	PSL5	Trainee Editor
51. 21/01/2013	PSL5	Trainee Editor
52. 29/10/2012	PSL5	Trainee Editor
53. 05/11/2012	PSL5	Trainee Editor
54. 27/06/2011	PSL5	Trainee Editor
55. 29/10/2012	PSL5	Trainee Editor
56. 29/10/2012	PSL5	Trainee Editor
57. 29/04/2004	PSL5	Publisher
58. 27/01/2010	PSL5	Publisher
59. 23/04/2007	PSL4	Administrative Assistant
60. 18/05/2011	PSL3	Administrative Assistant

4. As at 31 March, 2014 there are nine (9) non-ongoing staff employed with Hansard. Of these, eight are working as sessional trainee editors and one is working full time as a publisher.

Staff employment date	Level	Position	Length of contract
1. 20/01/2014	PSL5	Publisher	11 months
2. 03/02/2014	PSL5	Trainee Editor	12 months
3. 03/02/2014	PSL5	Trainee Editor	12 months
4. 03/02/2014	PSL5	Trainee Editor	12 months
5. 03/02/2014	PSL5	Trainee Editor	12 months
6. 03/02/2014	PSL5	Trainee Editor	12 months
7. 03/02/2014	PSL5	Trainee Editor	12 months
8. 05/02/2014	PSL5	Trainee Editor	12 months
9. 05/02/2014	PSL5	Trainee Editor	12 months

5. All DPS jobs (including editor positions) are filled on merit. A selection advisory committee comprising a chairperson trained in APS's recruitment processes, and two members, one of whom is independent, assesses the suitability of applicants to undertake the duties of the job using a competitive selection process. Applications must include a completed DPS job application cover sheet, a current Curriculum Vitae (CV), and address each selection criterion provided in the information/job pack.

If selected for interview, an applicant will be asked to elaborate at interview about how their experience and skills qualify them for the position. Interviews focus on the selection criteria. Referee reports are also sought to further assess suitability.

The current selection criteria for a Hansard editor are as follows:

Delivering Outcomes:

Ability to maintain work flows and deliver results within tight deadlines in a high-volume, high-pressure work environment.

Leadership and Team Contribution:

Ability to exercise professional judgement in a constructive manner, flexibly adapt to new challenges, identify opportunities and contribute both individually and as a member of a team.

Communication:

Well developed verbal and written communication and interpersonal skills including ability to communicate with influence, listen to, and identify, the expectations and concerns of others.

Energy, Adaptability and Enthusiasm:

Take personal responsibility for accurate completion of work, focus on achieving objectives, maintain an optimistic outlook and focus on positives even in difficult circumstances.

Conceptual and Analytical Skills:

Well developed research skills, ability to comprehend information and identify critical issues quickly.

6. Prospective Hansard editors do not undertake aptitude testing prior to appointment. All new editors undertake an extensive Hansard editor training program that develops the skills and knowledge to perform effectively as a Hansard editor. During the course of the program a range of theory-based and practical learning opportunities are offered.

The training program is linked to salary progression and trainees are provided with ongoing support through mentoring and regular feedback sessions.

In July 2012, a team of editors reviewed the then training program and recommended a mixed mode (face-to-face, on the job and online) delivery of training. All training units were reviewed and the suggested mixed mode model was implemented in November 2012.

The Hansard mixed mode training program focuses upon direct experience in workplace activities, exposing trainees to all factors of the job from the early stages of training. Formal classroom-based learning takes place for the elements of the program which provide the foundation for editors learning skills, for example, English language knowledge and Hansard form (parliamentary procedure).

Further to this, experienced editors are allocated on a one-to-one basis to trainees to further facilitate their learning and development and pass on their knowledge and experience. Each trainee's Assistant Director has day-to-day responsibility for ensuring that trainees successfully progress through their training program.

The program and trainee support provisions are designed to cater to individual needs and learning styles. Each of the training units contains exercises, activities and/or on-the-job tasks and assessments that must be completed successfully in order to pass the unit. The training program is divided into eight units:

1. English
2. Online Environment
3. Voice Recognition (VR)
4. Logging and monitoring
5. Committee editing
6. Chamber procedure and Chamber editing
7. Proof checking
8. Subediting

Added to this, trainees self-identify when they are ready to be assessed. A double blind assessment process is used for two units—committee and chamber editing—to ensure fair and transparent assessment is applied during the assessment process. The double blind assessment was implemented at the suggestion of an editor.

All other units are assessed by experienced editors, with final signoff by an Assistant Director, before trainees progress through the broadband to become a PSL 6 editor.

An overview of the training plan is outlined in the table below.

Unit	Structure	Commencement/ Duration	Description
UNIT 1a: English	Workshops and exercises	Week 1 and continuing for entire training program	<p>Unit 1a develops editors' skills in sentence construction, looking at selected aspects of English grammar, punctuation and vocabulary.</p> <p>Following successful completion of this unit the editor will be expected to apply their knowledge of the areas of sentence construction covered in each session.</p>
UNIT1b: Style and usage (guides)	Workshops and exercises	Week 1 and continuing for entire training program	<p>Unit 1b will assist editors to become familiar with the rules and concepts in the Hansard style and usage guides.</p> <p>Following successful completion of this competency unit, the new editor will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • familiar with the style and usage guides and able to find items easily; and • familiar with Hansard style and usage and be able to apply the style and usage principles to their transcription.
UNIT 2: Online Environment and Research	At workstation	Week 1 and continuing for entire training program	<p>This unit introduces important online tools used by the Hansard editor: the Hansard Production System (HPS), digital audio (DART) and the parliamentary intranets. It will introduce the new editor to research skills via the use of internal and external search programs, the Parliamentary Library, the internet and intranet.</p>
UNIT 3: Voice Recognition (VR)	At workstation	Week 1 and continuing for entire training program	<p>This unit covers use of voice recognition using the program Dragon Naturally Speaking (VR).</p> <p>Following successful completion of this unit the editor will be proficient in voicing parliamentary proceedings into the Hansard Production System.</p>
UNIT 4: Logging and Monitoring	Workshops, on-the-job work and feedback	Week 1 and continuing for entire training program	<p>This unit covers Hansard logging and monitoring of committees, based on the logging and monitoring guidelines and informed by knowledge of the committee form and Hansard style and usage.</p>
UNIT 5: Committee editing	Workshops, on-the-job work and feedback	Commence week 2 and ongoing	<p>This unit covers how to transcribe a committee hearing using Hansard style and usage, committee form and editing techniques. It is based on the committee form guide but assumes and tests knowledge of Hansard style and usage.</p>

Unit	Structure	Commencement/ Duration	Description
UNIT 6a: Chamber form (procedure) and UNIT 6b: Chamber editing	Workshops, exercises, on-the-job work and feedback	Commence week 2 and ongoing	<p>This unit covers the form and procedures of the Senate and the House of Representatives and how they are to be transcribed for the official Hansard document.</p> <p>It is the principal unit of the Hansard Editor Learning and Development program. Its final assessment of whether the editor can send to pinks and greens without prior subediting is of high importance for an editor in moving through the broadband. It builds on unit 5—Committee editing, as editors will by this stage, already be transcribing committee turns.</p> <p>After passing this unit the editor will be able to send to pinks and greens without prior subediting. Implicit in this is the new editor's ability to complete and send their chamber turn within the set time frame (7.5 minutes of transcript within 1.5 hours).</p>
UNIT 7: Proof Checking	Workshop, on-the-job work and feedback	After completion of unit 6b – Chamber editing and ongoing	This unit covers the role of an editor checking a proof chamber <i>Hansard</i> . This is the second last unit in the training program as editors must apply knowledge of form, style and editing.
UNIT 8: Subediting	Workshops, on-the-job work and feedback	After unit 6b is completed – ongoing for approximately two months.	<p>This unit covers subediting. Subediting in the federal Hansard context refers to minimal, 'second pair of eyes' checking of chamber turns.</p> <p>Following successful completion of this unit, the editor will be able to check chamber turns, taking into account the textual and technical elements of the turns.</p>

7. Yes, DPS does undertake work, health and safety (WHS) workstation assessments for Hansard staff. WHS workstation assessments are undertaken for all new Hansard staff. Existing staff can also request assessments on a case-by-case basis if there have been changes in their circumstances, for example, returning to work following an accident or injury, or during the later stages of pregnancy.

In 2011, as part of the Hansard office refurbishment where ergonomic furniture was installed in the Hansard offices, a combination of individual WHS workstation assessments and 'quick checks' were provided to Hansard staff. The practice of 'quick checks' is where a WHS assessor checks a number of people in the same area at the same time.

Also, following refurbishment of committee room control booths, editors were provided with general instruction by a provider from Incorporating Ergonomics on how to adjust booth furniture to suit their individual requirements.

During July and August 2012, Hansard staff attended a WHS course titled 'Managing hazards and looking after yourself'. The course covered a range of issues including diet, exercise, sleep and shift-work.

When Hansard consolidated onto one floor in 2013, WHS assessments were again provided on a case-by-case basis at the request of individuals.

Assessments for eight of the nine new Hansard employees were undertaken on 28 March, 2014. A new date is to be scheduled for the ninth employee.

8. DPS, as part of a new employee's induction on their first day, provides information about both the employer and employee responsibilities in relation to work, health and safety (WHS), workstation set up, the Employee Assistance Program, how to report workplace incidents or injury, the availability of Workplace Harassment Officers, the Parliament House Emergency Incident Reference Guide and how to contact Fire Wardens and First Aid Officers.

All new Hansard staff attend the next available WHS Awareness training session run by HR Services and these are scheduled for every second month during 2014. In previous years, they were run every month with the exception of December and January.

Hansard WHS representatives also meet with new Hansard employees on their first day and provide information about working in Hansard.

Hansard employees are also provided with WHS workstation assessments conducted by an external provider. In line with individual WHS report recommendations, modifications are made to workstations and recommended equipment is purchased for staff.

Assessments for eight of the nine new Hansard employees were undertaken on 28 March, 2014. A new date is to be scheduled for the ninth employee.

9. The reason for the Hansard trial was to test if the transcription of chamber proceedings could be performed without Hansard editors being present in the chambers, and without any negative effects on the timeliness and accuracy of chamber transcripts.
10. The Hansard Trial was testing whether the chamber Hansards could be produced with an acceptable level of accuracy and timeliness without Hansard editors being present in the Senate and House of Representatives chambers, as already occurs for the Federation Chamber. Editors were asked to continue to use online chamber documents (Draft House Minutes and the Dynamic Red) and to supplement audio recordings as needed with resources such as ParView and the House Monitoring System.

The Hansard Trial was first mentioned to Hansard staff at a section meeting held on 9 May 2013, and a further section meeting held on 23 May 2013 discussed the objective and proposed approach to the trial. Draft 'trial approach' documentation was provided at the meeting on 23 May 2013. The trial scope and approach was also discussed at team meetings and, once Hansard staff had had the opportunity to review and provide feedback, the trial approach documentation was updated and forwarded to Hansard staff on 13 June 2013.

11. The Trial Approach document that was sent to Hansard staff on 13 June 2013, outlined the criteria and method (benchmarks) for assessing the trial including: the number of pinks and greens corrections, the error rate reported in the Hansard Production System, the number of hotline calls and a comparative analysis of the timeliness in producing the draft speeches/turns (pinks and greens) when an editor has and has not been in the chamber.

Trial benchmarks:

- *Number of pinks and greens corrections.* This is the number of pinks and greens corrections received from senators and members.
- *Error rate recorded in the Hansard Production System.* One of Hansard's key performance indicators (KPIs) is accuracy of transcription. This is the error rate as notified by customers, and the target is a maximum of five errors per 100 pages transcribed.
- *Hotline calls.* This is the number and type of calls that were made to the 2020 help desk about Hansard related issues.
- *Timeliness of transcription.* These KPIs measure the percentage of transcripts delivered for chambers within service standards:
 - a) individual draft speeches/turns (pinks and greens) delivered within two hours after a speech finishes; the target is 95 per cent; and

- b) electronic proof Hansard reports published and loaded to the internet and ParlInfo within three hours after each house rises; the target is 95 per cent.

Draft speeches/turns (pinks and greens) timeliness statistics and the number and type of calls received by 2020 about Hansard during the June 2013 trial fortnight were benchmarked against the sitting week 18 to 29 June 2012. This sitting fortnight was chosen as it was most comparable to the trial sitting fortnight: an eight-day sitting fortnight with both chambers sitting. The number of pinks and greens corrections and the HPS error rates during the two weeks of the trial were benchmarked against the sitting weeks from February to June 2013. Proof transcript timeliness was assessed as to whether the three-hour deadline was met during the trial.

12. Two Hansard Assistant Directors undertook the evaluation of the Hansard trial and the Assistant Secretary, Content Management Branch is responsible for assessing that the recommendation and resulting activities are appropriate and are addressed.
13. The Hansard trial was testing if transcription of chamber proceedings could be performed without Hansard editors being present in the chambers, and without any negative effects on the timeliness and accuracy of chamber transcripts.

While no issues arose during the trial that adversely affected the timeliness and accuracy of the transcripts, there were issues that did emerge including coordinating the collection of speaking notes from the chamber, the rendering of interjections, and ensuring that staff took regular breaks from their workstations. Work is being done to address these matters.

Some staff feedback referred to instances of past changes being implemented after one trial. Hansard management do not intend to implement changes unless absolutely sure that the changes are based upon sound reasons and lessons learned, and that the changes can assist the work of editors.

Hansard, like all areas across DPS, is continually looking for ways it can provide efficient and cost-effective service delivery. In the case of the Hansard trial of not having editors in the chambers, the trial was looking at whether the transcript could be produced without having editors present in the chambers. Staff were asked to produce Hansard using the range of information now provided electronically by DPS and the chamber departments.

Another trial would enable DPS to determine if adjustments to Hansard processes planned from the findings of the initial trial were effective and the timeliness and accuracy of chamber transcripts maintained.

14. The Hansard trial was testing if transcription of chamber proceedings could be performed without Hansard editors being present in the chambers, and without any negative effects on the timeliness and accuracy of chamber transcripts.

While no issues arose during the trial that adversely affected the timeliness and accuracy of the transcripts, there were logistical issues that did emerge including coordinating the collection of speaking notes from the chamber, the rendering of interjections and ensuring that staff took regular breaks from their workstations.

DPS and the chamber departments have made significant investments in distributing chamber information electronically, so it is appropriate for Hansard to investigate if these investments can be used to deliver Hansard services.

Since 15 August 2012, using the House of Representatives' Assistant Votes Officer's Minutes, combined with ParlTV and ParlView, has enabled Hansard to deliver Federation Chamber transcripts without an editor presence in the chamber. Another trial, after addressing the matters raised and consideration being given to the feedback provided, would enable DPS to further assess if a similar process could be used for Senate and House of Representatives transcripts.

Also, another trial would enable DPS to determine if adjustments to Hansard processes were effective and the timeliness and accuracy of chamber transcripts maintained.

15. Please refer to the answer provided to Question on Notice No.17 for more detailed information on what editors do in the chamber, including a sample log produced by Hansard editors. The type of information recorded on chamber logs includes what the chamber is currently debating, who is speaking, who is the occupant of the chair, who is the minister and shadow minister at the table, names and quotes to be checked, and interjections, if they are heard.

Since the mid-1990s, the proceedings of parliament have been recorded by a digital audio system, and since then it was no longer necessary for Hansard editors to capture the words spoken in the chambers using pen or machine shorthand.

In summary, there is no editing work done in the chamber. Some editors might check spellings and quotes but this can be done at their desks. Nuances in speeches can be obtained from the digital audio recording, from ParlTV or from ParlView, as they currently can be for the Federation Chamber.

Please see below for substantive responses to each concern listed on each page.

Page 30:

Presence in the chamber

- a) Contrary to the view expressed in this feedback that being exposed to the content of their segment of proceedings is an important reason for editors to attend the chambers, editors do not get 'advance knowledge' of proceedings before working on Federation Chamber or committee jobs, the latter constituting the majority of transcription work and which are far less structured or predictable than chamber proceedings.

Interjections

- b) The trial approach documentation advised editors on how to render interjections. It is the same longstanding advice for rendering interjections in the Federation Chamber or committees or those not heard in the chambers.

Notes collection

- c) The importance of the collection of notes during the trial was acknowledged in the report and is easily remedied by an alternative note collection process involving Hansard support staff.

Lack of information

- d) The possible lack of information noted in the feedback, including in the scenario with Minister Burke, is encountered much more frequently in committee transcripts and editors use longstanding practices to handle these incidents. Not being aware of who else may be in attendance in the Federation Chamber or in a committee hearing does not ordinarily pose difficulties for staff, so it is uncertain why this is different for House and Senate proceedings.

Identification of Presiding Officers

- e) The issues in identifying presiding officers were acknowledged in the report.

Joins

- f) This editor's comment relates to the practice by which one editor finishes a segment of the transcript and another editor takes over. The juncture between two such 'turns' is called a 'join'. The practice of editors indicating 'joins' when swapping over at the desk in the chamber is a vestige of the pre-computer age when staff could not easily see others' work. The

Hansard Production System (HPS) enables editors to easily view the turns of other editors and thus coordinate the 'joins' by simply looking at where other editors have finished their turns. This is the practice followed for Federation Chamber and committee transcripts.

Parlview

- g) The limitations of ParlView for transcription purposes were acknowledged in the report. Editors also need additional practice in using it, since it is very easy to find the relevant segment.

WHS

- h) The potential WHS issues were acknowledged in the report. Although editors are never rostered to work for more than five continuous hours without taking a minimum 30-minute break, some staff reported that, in the absence of the requirement to attend the chambers every 90 minutes, they did not take many short breaks from their workstations during the trial. During non-sitting days, editors are expected to manage their workload to ensure they receive adequate breaks throughout the day, but prior to any future trial, DPS management will remind all staff that they have a personal responsibility to take regular breaks during each sitting day.

Interjections

- i) The sample transcript could have been transcribed normally but without the content of the interjections, which is what occurs in Federation Chamber and committee transcripts. Editors were advised in the trial approach documentation to use descriptive italics lines to indicate interjections.

Page 35:

Interjections

- a) The longstanding advice for rendering interjections in Federation Chamber or committee transcripts or those not heard in the chambers is to use descriptive italics lines. The trial approach documentation advised editors to follow this practice for any inaudible interjections during the trial. See response to Page 30(i).

Notes collection

This is addressed under response 30(c) above.

Interjections

- b) The editor should have used the descriptive italics lines available to them to render inaudible interjections (as they would have used in the past and in Federation Chamber and committee transcripts). As such, the editor acted contrary to the advice provided by DPS management prior to the trial and the reported delays were a direct result of not following that advice. See response to Page 30(i).

WHS

- c) The potential WHS issues were acknowledged in the report, but the editor was not 'immobilised' at their desk. They had the same allocation of time to complete their turns as usual, so they could have taken breaks from their desk in between turns. See answer 30(h) for more details on this issue.

Question time logging

- d) The extra time spent logging question time was unscheduled but did not present an actual problem for the editor.

Page 37:

Presence in the chamber

- a) As with the answer for Page 30(a), Federation Chamber and committee Hansards are produced without 'advance knowledge' or a 'first listen' of what one is about to transcribe. Federation Chamber and committee transcripts constitute the bulk of an editor's workload.

Senate log

- b) The reference to away-from-Canberra committees is that the vast majority of such committees are not attended by Hansard staff. Occasionally there can be issues identifying members and witnesses from the audio, but editors still manage to complete such transcripts with minimal issues. By contrast, the information available to editors during the trial was significantly greater but, based on the feedback, the trial posed problems for editors that they readily solve for away committees or Federation Chamber proceedings. The issues with the Senate log during the trial were acknowledged in the report.

Notes collection

- c) On the issue of notes collection, please see answer Page 30(c). The limitations of the Dynamic Red for transcription purposes were acknowledged in the report.

WHS

- d) The potential WHS issues were acknowledged in the report, but the editor is specifically referring to the day they subedited a chamber for the whole day. Subediting involves checking the work of other editors while at their desk, which is unavoidable, irrespective of the trial. See answer Page 30(h) for more details on this issue.

Walking to and from the chamber

- e) It was never stated that it took 15 minutes to get to a chamber; it was stated that walking to the chamber, sitting at the desk and then walking back to the Hansard office took about 15 minutes.

Visibility of editors in the chambers

- f) It is unclear how such a visible presence in the chambers affects the professionalism of editors' work. DPS expects the same level of professionalism in editors' work on Federation Chamber and committee proceedings, despite not attending those.

Page 43:

Senate log

- a) The issues with the Senate log during the trial were acknowledged in the report.

Presence in the chambers

- b) As contained in answer Page 30(a), Federation Chamber and committee transcripts constitute the bulk of an editor's workload, neither of which afford one any 'advance knowledge' of proceedings. It has been longstanding practice for editors to notify their manager and/or subeditor if they are having difficulties completing their turns on time. Given that the timeliness statistics for the trial fortnight indicated that the trial had no discernible effect on the delivery of draft speeches, the delays reported by this particular editor were not consistent with the experience of the vast majority of editors. Given that the process of transcribing the chambers during the trial was in all relevant aspects identical to how the Federation Chamber and committees transcripts are produced, it is unclear why this staff

member reported such a serious decline in productivity during the trial but not for committee or Federation Chamber work.

IT issues

- c) The IT problems were unrelated to the trial.

WHS

- d) See answer Page 30(h).

Editor presence at external committees

- e) The statements about a previous trial of editors not attending external committee hearings are not relevant to the trial. DPS will only institute changes to work practices if there is evidence that such changes will improve efficiency and not adversely affect service delivery.

Notes collection

- f) On the issue of notes collection, please see answer Page 30(c).

Identifying 'seconder' of motion

- g) The inability to identify the 'seconder' of motions was an unexpected outcome of the trial. These 'seconding' instances can be rendered like other procedural matters in transcripts, such as 'Debate adjourned', so this change can be introduced prior to any future trials (for example, using 'Motion seconded' as procedural text rather than including the actual words of a given member).

Presence in the chambers

- h) See answer Page 30(a) for a response to reported issues with meeting deadlines.

Job satisfaction

- i) DPS acknowledges that some staff derive some job satisfaction from attending the chambers, but DPS does not believe that this is a sufficient reason for continuing the practice if it is no longer necessary. The editor mentions a connection between professionalism and attendance in the chambers, but this is not explained. See Page 37(f) for additional details.

Hansard procedures

- j) DPS provides information on Hansard procedures to enable senators and members to easily access transcripts of their speeches, along with relevant contact details and the processes used for submitting corrections. DPS does not provide senators and members with detailed information about the internal processes of Hansard, unless requested.

Page 50:

Presence in the chambers

- a) 'Flying blind' is another example of the 'advance knowledge' issue, addressed in answer Page 30(a). 'Form' refers to the manner in which procedural information is rendered in Hansard transcripts. The stages of proceedings (for example, 'Second reading', 'Consideration-in-detail' et cetera) are clearly highlighted in the Draft Votes Officer's Minutes, Assistant Draft Votes Officer's Minutes and the Dynamic Red. In most cases, editors in the chamber would only be aware of the stage of proceedings by referring to these documents.

Trainee editor presence in the chambers

- b) The editor recounts difficulties a trainee encountered that would have been ameliorated by attending the chamber. It is not explained how the trainee would have understood the proceedings simply by being present in the chamber. See answer Page 50(a) for additional details.

Speaking times

- c) The Votes does list speaking times to the second, so this point is incorrect.

WHS

- d) As part of a WHS initiative to reduce the number of hours worked by staff during sitting weeks, since 15 August 2012, DPS has delayed transcription of proceedings on Monday and Wednesday mornings allowing editors to begin work later on each of these days which means that the transcription of the morning proceedings begins later in the day. The issues raised in connection with these delayed turns are acknowledged, but the copy of the Dynamic Red would have provided all of the information about the stage of proceedings.

With respect to transcribing Senate proceedings, in the situation where transcription is 'cut off' because of late sitting, and recommenced on the next working day, for any difficulties encountered such as with a complicated committee stage, the most reliable guide for proceedings would be that day's Senate Journal (which would have been published after the chamber rose the previous evening). The Journals are the authoritative records of Senate proceedings and editors could have accessed it in the case referred to in the feedback.

Division lists

- e) The logistical issues associated with inserting correct division lists are acknowledged.

Sharing information between editors

- f) There are alternatives for sharing information between editors other than through the log produced in the chamber (for example, email and the Hansard intranet sites).

Interjections

- g) See answer Page 30(b) for a response to the issue of interjections.

WHS

- h) See answer Page 30(h) for a response to the WHS issues.

Joins

- i) See answer 30(f) for details on the issue of 'joins'. Editors manage 'joins' for the majority of their transcription work by making use of technology. If join problems emerged during the trial it can only be explained by those editors neglecting to follow the practices they use for all other transcription work.

Editor training

- j) The comments about training are not relevant to the trial.

Time savings

- k) The suggested time savings primarily relate to technological issues. Hansard, DPS IT Services and the Hansard Production System vendor continue to work together to address issues with technology. DPS received an updated version of the Hansard Production System in April 2014 in an attempt to address system stability issues, many of which are identified in the feedback. As an example, the OneNote logs referred to in the feedback are now working.

The DART audio system was moved onto new network infrastructure in January 2014, which has improved system stability.

Page 60:

Senate log

- a) The issues with the Senate log during the trial were acknowledged in the report.

Presence in the chambers

- b) See answer Page 30(a).

Trial related delays

- c) The editor claims that they were initially delayed on Monday 17 June by not being able to determine who was in the chair in the Senate or if the Senate was in the Committee of the Whole. The Dynamic Red clearly identifies when the Senate moves into the committee stage, so no editor presence is required to determine this. The editor also states that they lost significant amounts of time trying to determine who was in the chair at 13:58:36. However, it can be seen on the ParView video at that time that Senator Bernardi is in the role of Temporary Chairman. It is difficult to accept the editor providing this feedback was unable to determine the identity of the chair from the ParView recording, especially if they consulted with other editors.
- d) On turn 44 (13:52:00), the editor started transcribing at 14:07 and approved the turn at 15:45. The turn would have been due at 15:22:30, so the editor was about 22 minutes late, but they did not begin transcribing until 15 minutes after the turn was available. The editor may have been waiting for the ParView footage to load, which could account for the long delay in beginning the turn, but they had convenient access to the HMS in their room and could have viewed the proceedings live.
- e) On turn 56, (15:22:30), the editor started transcribing at 16:11 and approved the turn at 17:45. The turn would have been due at 16:52:30, so there was a cumulative delay of around 53 minutes in total.
- f) However, there was a delay of 26 minutes between approving turn 44 and starting turn 56. The ParView footage would have been loaded by 15:45 when they finished turn 44, so accounting for 10 minutes to find and watch the footage, the editor should have been able to start turn 56 by 15:55 at the latest. There is still a delay of 15-16 minutes in starting turn 56 which is not accounted for. The editor also claims that part of the delay in turn 56 related to 'complex editing, a join issue and some HPS issues'. However, it appears the editor was simply unable to complete their work on time.
- g) The editor then reports that they found themselves in difficulty in avoiding five hours of continuous duty, as proscribed in the DPS Enterprise Agreement 2011. The cited examples of trial-related delays were easily resolved by reference to the ParView recording or the ParTV broadcast. The additional delay referred to was due to the editor not following the advice provided by DPS management on rendering interjections during the trial.

Identification of Presiding Officers

- h) The editor provides two instances of difficulties identifying the chair during divisions in turns 101 and 113. As in the case referred to in section 60(c), the ParView video clearly shows that the Chairman, Senator Parry, was in the chair when the doors were locked for the divisions. For turn 101, the editor claims it took three editors a total of 10 minutes to check the ParView video for 20:37:00 to see who was in the chair and that this was despite watching ParView footage in slow motion. ParView does not allow users to watch videos in slow motion. A similar point applies to turn 113—Senator Parry is clearly displayed in

ParlView at 21:43:03, approximately three seconds after calling for the doors to be locked. The footage of both divisions would also have been broadcast live over ParlTV, which all editors have ready access to in their rooms or outside their booths.

Notes collection

- i) On the issue of notes collection, please see answer Page 30(c). As has been demonstrated in answers 60(c) to 60(h), ParlView did provide the exact information the editor was looking for. Finding the relevant ParlView video for the instances referred to in this particular feedback took less than two minutes.

WHS

- j) See response Page 30(h) for a response to the WHS issues, but this particular editor encountered time constraints that were simply not reported by other editors.

Transcription timeliness and efficiency

- k) The comments about the trial resulting in a less efficient process for transcribing chamber proceedings apply specifically to this editor. If this was in fact the case for most or all staff, then there would have been a corresponding reduction in the timeliness of transcripts. There was no such reduction.
- l) It is acknowledged that the editor enjoys attending the chambers, but the evidence provided in the rest of their feedback did not support the argument that the trial led to a reduction in efficiency. The editor had only demonstrated that they did not follow the formal advice of management and were unable to recognise senators who were clearly displayed on ParlView.

Hansard searchability

- m) The reference to possible problems with the indexing and 'searchability' of Hansard as a result of not attending the chambers is unexplained. It has not been reported to Hansard management that Federation Chamber transcripts have had indexing and 'searchability' problems since editors ceased attending proceedings in early 2012.

Visibility of editors in the chambers

- n) It is not explained how attending the chambers affects the value placed by others on editors' work. See answer page 37(f) for more details.

Notes collection

- o) It is acknowledged that the editors attending the chambers every 7.5 minutes is a more convenient and timely method of gathering speaking notes than the process used during the trial.

Presence in the chamber

- p) The reference to 'advance knowledge' or 'first exposure' has been responded to at the answer to Page 30(a).

Location of the Hansard unit

- q) If the design of Parliament House was intended to place Hansard in close proximity to the chambers, then it would make more sense to have Hansard located near the Main Committee Room, which is equidistant from the respective chambers, rather than on the Senate side of the building.

16. The final report included both positive and negative feedback. The purpose of the report was to identify issues and negative findings were expanded upon in the body of the report as part of highlighting key thematic areas that required addressing. The report was primarily focused on identifying learnings from the trial and potential remedies.
17. Since 2010, Hansard has successfully produced transcripts for the majority of parliamentary committee hearings held away from Parliament House without having a Hansard editor first observing or hearing the proceedings. This practice was successfully extended to sittings of the Federation Chamber on 15 August 2012. The 2013 Hansard Trial looked at whether, and how, Hansard can achieve the same results for the Senate and House of Representatives chambers.

Since the mid-1990s, the proceedings of parliament have been recorded by a digital audio system, and since then it was no longer necessary for Hansard editors to capture the words spoken in the chambers using pen or machine shorthand. Since that time, the role of the editor in the chambers has been to keep a log of proceedings. The type of information recorded on chamber logs includes what the chamber is currently debating, who is speaking, who is the occupant of the chair, who is the minister and shadow minister at the table, names and quotes to be checked, and interjections, if they are heard. See the attached Senate log from 19 March 2014 for the type of information recorded on chamber logs by Hansard editors (Attachment A).

Most of the information currently obtained from having an editor present in the chambers is accessible from the digital audio recording, ParlTV and ParView and through the use of resources such as the Draft House Minutes, the Draft Federation Chamber Minutes and the Dynamic Red. There is no editing work done in the chamber. Some editors might check spellings and quotes but this can be done at their desks. Nuances in speeches can be obtained from the digital audio recording, from ParlTV or from ParView, as they currently can be for the Federation Chamber. The main advantage of editors being in the chamber is that editors may be able to hear and record interjections. Accordingly, addressing the issue of interjections is noted in the final report's recommendation.

Hansard is not a strictly verbatim reflection of what was said in the chambers. This is the case whether or not Hansard editors are present in the chamber.

18. The letter from the Clerk of the House of Representatives did not require a response as it was provided as feedback about the trial. The Secretary of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) has discussed the feedback with the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. There was no expectation from either Clerk that DPS would respond to them in writing.
19. DPS has not received advice or costings on alternative ways of producing Hansard transcripts. DPS is aware that any future captioning service could be used as an input to Hansard transcription, but work on investigating any potential efficiencies in transcription cannot progress until DPS has been able to verify, firstly, that live captions can be produced to an acceptable quality for broadcast and, secondly, that captions are suitable for repurposing for Hansard transcription, both in terms of quality and practical considerations of timeliness and format.
20. No, DPS is not considering providing live captioning of Hansard as captioning is applicable to audio-visual or audio-only media, not the written word. Live captioning is a requirement of government policy known as the Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy. DPS is considering the captioning of the audio-visual records of parliament, which are webcast live on the APH website and on ParView within five minutes.

DPS has undertaken some market research on captioning, the findings of which are outlined in the briefing note provided to the Parliamentarians ICT Advisory Board meeting held on 19 March 2014 (see below).

Parliamentary Captioning Service

Background

Captions make video recordings accessible to people with hearing impairment by providing a text version of dialogue in video recordings.

At its meeting on 19 June 2013, PICTAB agreed that a business case for live captioning of parliament should be developed as a component of the e-Hansard program.

From December 2014, live captioning is a requirement of government policy known as the Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy (NTS).

Captions are also a cornerstone of the ICT Strategic Plan, as they will facilitate significant improvements in searching and indexing the audio-visual records of parliament, which are now publicly available on ParView.

Progress

DPS has initiated a project to implement a Parliamentary Captioning Service. This project has undertaken market research on captioning in Australia, through consultation with the ABC, SBS, non-profit and for-profit industry groups, as well as AGIMO, which oversees the whole-of-government implementation of the NTS.

The key findings of this market research are:

- speech-to-text technology is not yet capable of fully automating the production of broadcast-quality captions;
- captioning is a specialist service requiring highly skilled and trained operators and sophisticated infrastructure and management;
- all national broadcasters engage specialist captioning companies to produce their captions;
- market leaders use stenographers and respeakers to produce live captions, with many staff being "homeworkers"—working from home via remote connection to a caption hub;
- only 30% of people have the inherent ability to listen to and repeat speech simultaneously and thus the potential to be trained as respeakers;
- however, respeaking is increasingly the preferred technique to produce live captions, due to a limited pool of stenographers worldwide and the shorter training time for respeakers compared to stenographers; and
- the accuracy benchmark for live captions is 98%.

Based on these findings and analyses of relevant government policy, DPS is preparing a business case to investigate whether industry can meet the unique requirements of a Parliament Captioning Service, which differ from standard television broadcasting requirements.

Next steps

The next step in this project will be to prepare a procurement plan to test the capability and capacity of industry to provide a Parliamentary Captioning Service, as well as to determine the cost basis and pricing structure on which that service could be offered.

The findings of this activity will inform the approach DPS takes to delivering this service and potentially to sourcing funds and tendering for an ongoing service.

Timeline

Below is an indicative timeline showing project milestones ahead of the anticipated implementation of a Parliamentary Captioning Service in December 2014.

Q3 2013-14	Q4 2013-14	Q1 2014-15	Q2 2014-15
Finalise business case & procurement plan	Execute procurement plan	Review industry capability/capacity & determine approach to ongoing service	Implement agreed approach

21. No, DPS has not received costings for the provision of captioning Hansard. DPS has however, conducted research and established indicative costings for the captioning of the audio-visual broadcast. These costs are commercially sensitive and releasing them publicly may compromise the ability of DPS to achieve value for money in any related future procurement.
22. A transcript, regardless of its delivery timeframe, does not satisfy the audio-visual accessibility requirements of WCAG2.0 level AA, which is the relevant standard adopted by government policy and which states, under Guideline 1.2:
- "1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded): Captions are provided for all prerecorded audio content in synchronized media, except when the media is a media alternative for text and is clearly labelled as such ...
- "1.2.4 Captions (Live): Captions are provided for all live audio content in synchronized media."
- (**Note:** "synchronised media" denotes what is commonly referred to as an audio-visual recording.)
23. DPS is not currently considering recruitment to do the captioning work. Due to the specialised nature of the function, DPS is however, exploring the capacity and capability of industry to perform captioning, and the quality of the output.

Attachment A: Senate log 19 March 2014 (with editor names removed)

Senate

Wednesday 19 March 2014

t1 09:30

Prayers and acknowledgement of country

President/ Abetz/Wong

Statement by the President—Review of questions of 18 March

[09:33]

Wong moves motion re Sinodinos

Leave not granted

Wong—motion to suspend standing orders.

ADP Marshall takes chair.

t2 09:35

ADP Marshall/Abetz/Wong

c—Wong—motion suspension of standing orders

[09:38]

ii—You of all people—Brandis

[09:38]

What hypocrisy—Macdonald

[09:38]

No allegations have been made—Brandis

[09:39]

ii—That is not an allegation of wrongdoing—Brandis

s—Abetz

t3 09:40

ADP Marshall/Abetz/Wong

c—Abetz

[09:42]

ii—Look at what Terence Cole said about Australian Water Holdings—Collins

[09:44]

ii—Look at what Terence Cole said about Australian Water Holdings—Collins

t4 09:45

ADP Marshall/Abetz/Wong

s—Milne—Wong motion

t5 09:50

ADP Marshall/Abetz/Wong

c—Milne—Wong motion

[09:51]

s—Brandis— Wong motion

ii—Carr

t6 09:55

ADP Marshall/Abetz/Wong

c—Brandis— Wong motion suspension of standing orders

[09:56]

s—Faulkner— Wong motion suspension of standing orders

[09:59]

ii—That does not contradict a statement—Brandis

t7 10:00

ADP Marshall/Abetz/Wong

c—Faulkner— Wong motion suspension of standing orders

ii—How is that an allegation of wrongdoing?—Brandis

[10:01]

That does not contradict his statement—Brandis

ADP Whish-Wilson takes chair

s—Fifield—Wong motion suspension of standing orders

t8 10:05

ADP Whish-Wilson/Abetz/Wong

c—Fifield—Wong motion suspension of standing orders

ii—Confidante of Godwin Greche—Collins

ii—Mentor of Godwin Greche—Collins

[10:06]

ii—Where is he?—O'Neill

Division required

t9 10:10

President/Abetz/Wong

[10:13]

Senate divided: **ayes - 34; noes - 28** Agreed to

s—Wong moved a motion to give the matter precedence over all other business today
division required

t10 10:15

President/Abetz/Wong

Senate divided: **ayes - 34; noes - 28** Agreed to

[10:17]

s—Wong moves original motion Sinodinos

ADP Whish-Wilson takes chair

ii—You have made no allegations—Brandis

ii—Make your allegation—Brandis

ii—That is the most accurate thing you have ever said—Macdonald

ii—You are ..about that, aren't you—Macdonald
ii—Well, you provide a full explanation on the O'Farrell thing—Macdonald

t11 10:20

ADP Whish-Wilson/Wong/Abetz

c—Wong

ii—Did you know how that vote was going to run out—Macdonald

t12 10:25

ADP Whish-Wilson/Wong/Abetz

c—Wong

t13 10:30

ic—Wong

ADP Scullion

Abetz/Wong

[10:29]

ij—O'Neill—is that the purpose?

[10:30]

ij—Brandis

[10:31]

“I became non-executive chairman of AWH on 3 November 2010. I was not aware that, at around this time, the CEO of the company had negotiated what has been reported as a personal loan agreement with members of the Obeid family, secured against shares in Australian Water Holdings.”

[10:32]

ij—Abetz—*Deliberately? How do you know that?*—responded to

[10:33]

ij—Brandis—*Well, maybe you are just making something out of nothing!*—responded to

[10:33]

ij—Brandis

ij—Brandis

[10:34]

ic—Wong

[10:34]

ij—O'Neill—*that is exactly right*

ij—Brandis

t14 10:37

Join: I would remind...

Brandis: Absolutely correct.

[10:37]

Brandis: You were put into government by Michael Williamson

[10:37]

Abetz—s—statement re Senator Sinodinos

Penny Mason??

Abetz/ ADP Whish-Wilson/Carr

Pecksniffian (i)

Brandis: She (Collins) is not the sharpest tool in the shed.

Napthalene (i)

t15 10:45

c—Abetz on Wong's motion on Sinodinos

Whish-Wilson

Fifield, Moore

t16 10:52

ADP Whish-Wilson/Carr/Brandis

ic—Abetz—

Join: Sen Wong suggests

Wong: .. a little difficult for a fair-minded person .. Sinodinos

[10:57]

s—Wright—

t17 11:00

ic—Wright—on motion by Wong re. conduct of the Assistant Treasurer (Sinodinos)

ADP Mark Bishop

[11:00]

ij Brandis

[11:04]

ij Fifield: Incorrect. That's incorrect.

[11:05]

ij Fifield: co-dependent officers? Does that mean they live together?

T18 11:07

join to be sorted

[11:07]

Wright finishes

[11:07]

Faulkner – s – on motion by Wong re conduct of the Assistant Treasurer (Sinodinos)

ADP Mark Bishop

Fifield & Brandis/Carr & Moore

"there were hundreds of companies who made donations" – ij Brandis [11:12]

[11:13]

Faulkner quotes ICAC proceedings (twice)

T19 11:15

join - Now the fact is ... - after quote, just before interjection

ADP Bishop

Fifield&Brandis/Moore&Carr

Faulkner is listing issues: firstly, secondly, thirdly etc

[11:21]

I - well don't make the allegation if it is based on an assumption – brandis

Brandis continues to interject

T20 11:22

[11:22]

ij ronaldson well your leader did yesterday repeated

in contin Faulkner on motion by Wong re conduct of the Assistant Treasurer (Sinodinos)

ADP Mark Bishop/ Brandis/Moore

[11:23]

ij Ronaldson, ij Brandis

[11:24]

ij Fifield you're the one trying to make a moral equivalence

[11:24]

ij brandis yes you are that's exactly what you're doing

ij brandis

[11:26]

s brandis

t21 11:30

ADP Mark Bishop/ Brandis/Carr and Moore

Brandis ic on motion by Wong re conduct of the Assistant Treasurer (Sinodinos)

[11:33]

Back interjecting

[11:33]

Ronaldson i

[11:33]

Back i

[11:33]

Brandis ic

T22 11:37

ADP Mark Bishop/ Fifield/Carr and Moore

Wong motion on Sinodinos conduct

Brandis contin

t23 11.45

Join: Here we have it ...

ADP Bishop

Fifield/Moore

Brandis—ic—motion by Wong re conduct of the Assistant Treasurer (Sinodinos)

[11:46]

Fifield—point of order

[11:48]

Moore—point of order

[11:49]

Brandis—point of order

[11:50]

ADP Bishop on the points of order

[11:51]

Fifield—point of order

t24 11:52

Join: ADP Bishop, responding to point of order.

Brandis on a point of order, 11:52

ADP Bishop repending to the point of order, 11:53

Ronaldson on a point of order.

ADP Bishop, responding to the point of order.

Cormann on a point of order.

Carr's motion put (?)—question is that the motion be put. 11:54. Division required. Bells start to ring at 11:54.

ADP Bishop.

t25 12:00

President

division required—that the question be now put

[11:59]

doors locked

ayes 33, noes 26

Question agreed to.

Question put: that the motion moved by Senator Wong be agreed to
division required—

[12:01]

ij—Fifield—attempted point of order, no point of order (President)

[12:02]

further division required—on the motion

[12:03]

doors locked

ayes 32 noes 25

Question agreed to.

[12:05]

s—Wong—moves further motion

[12:05]

ij—Fifield on a point of order—leave required

[12:06]

President—

[12:07]

ij—Fifield—point of order—precedence

t26 12:07

Fifield on point of order

Collins:He hasn't attempted. We would have given him leave.

[12:08]

Moore—

Macdonald: The motion hasn't been passed.

Brandis: He could not.

MacDonald: It was not passed.

[12:09]

Abetz—re point of order

Fifield: five past 12.

[12:12]

Conroy— re point of order

MacDonald: this is not a point of order; it's a debate.

[12:13]

Brandis—pt of order

t27 12:15

President

Abetz/Wong

[12:16]

President speaking

ij—Macdonald

as you found out (referring to Fifield)

[12:17]

Wong

interjections from government

President—just wait a minute

[12:18]

Abetz—this is not a point of order, Chair

President

Wong

[12:19]

Macdonald

[12:20]

President—to Fifield—you will get your point of order when your colleagues ...

[12:20]

Fifield

[12:21]

President

—you are—

Fifield continues

t28 12:22

President/Abetz/Wong

ic—Fifield on a point of order

[12:22]

i—President

[12:23]

i—Macdonald—

[12:23]

i—President

i—Macdonald

[12:23]

i—Wong

Macdonald is up near the Clerk—something about a question

[12:24]

i—President

i—Wong—This is bullying of the Senate Clerk

i—Macondald Again!

[12:24]

i—Fifield

i—President

An accurate staement is not a reflection

[12:24]

i—Wong withdraws—and on point of order

i—It wasn't passed until 5 past 12—Macondald—na

i—Is this a point of order—Macondald

[12:26]

i—Fifield—point of order

i—Brandis that's' an official record

[12:26]

i—Milne—

[12:27]

i—What time does gaia(?) say it was—Brandis

c—Milne

[12:28]

i—Abetz

i—Brndis—question be put—

c—Abetz

t29 12:30

Abetz on pt of order

President in chair

ij Conroy

[12:30]

ij Conroy that's his construction of events

[12:30]

ij Carr moved well before midday

[12:31]

i—Brandis on the pt of order

[12:31]

ij Carr—

Brandis contg point of order

[12:31]

ij Conroy: yes, Eric said that. You don't need to clarify.

ij Stop undermining Eric

ij Carr

Wong at table now—ij Wong; how desperate they are to avoid him giving a statement

ij Wong everyone knows what they are doing

[12:32]

ij Brandis

[12:32]

ij Roanldson

[12:32]

Fifield on point of order

[12:32]

i—Wong: is this a point of order?

[12:33]

i—Fifield

I Wong like you're doing. How desperate they are.

Ronaldson-pt of order. But Ive got a pt of order.

[12:33]

ij Ronaldson you said that evo who wanted to make a pt of order would be able to

ij Ronaldson: I was in the chamber when it was moved

ij Carr so was I!

[12:34]

President—ruling

[12:34]

ij Macdonald

[12:34]

ij Conroy

ij Macdonald: at least we have some understanding of the rules

ij Conroy

[12:35]

ij Fifield—pt of order

ij on what? Conroy, Wong

[12:35]

President

[12:35]

I Wong—moves

[12:35]

I Raondlson pt of order I need some carlification of your ruling. I am seeking some calrification

NB RONALDSON MIKE ~~NOT WORKING~~ WAS NOT TURNED ON

[12:36]

Wong—I move

[12:36]

I Brandis—pt of order

[12:37]

I Conroy: now you're defying your ruling

t30 11.37

Brandis continues his point of order

[12:38]

Hogg speaks then Brandis continues arguing with him

[12:38]

Hogg cuts Brandis off

[12:39]

Wong given call – Fifield rises on a point of order

[12:39]

Fifield on a point of order

[12:39]

Hogg cuts Fifield off

[12:39]

Wong rises to speak

[12:40]

Abetz on a fresh point of order

(lots of interjections through all of this)

[12:40]

Abetz continues his point of order

[12:40]

Hogg cuts Abetz off

[12:40]

Abetz tries to keep going, Hogg cuts him off, calls Wong

[12:41]

Cormann tries to rise on a point of order as well while Abetz still standing

Ronaldson and Collins argue across chamber (Macdonald also participates)

[12:41]

Hogg calls Abetz

Abetz continues to argue his point of order

[12:42]

Hogg clarifies and calls Wong (Abetz and Hogg continue)

Cormann tries to raise his point of order – Hogg sits Cormann down (Cormann argues)

Cormann sits down and gets up again. Hogg rises in his seat

Brandis rises on point of order – Hogg stands up again to speak, gives Wong to call

[12:43]

Wogg attempts to move her motion

[12:43]

Cormann now rises on a point of order

Collins interjecting.

[12:44]

Hogg cuts Cormann off (although Cormann continues)

[12:44]

Cormann asks Hogg another question

[12:44]

Hogg responds to Cormann – gives Wong call+

t31 11.45

Wong did not get to speak, as Matters of Public Interest called at 11:45

s- smith – WA Senate election on 5 April, then 'going viral' in regard to Labor government performance

t32 11:52

join: Yet it is important to make
in contin Smith on Matters of Public Interest discussion
ADP
Cash/Cameron

t33 12:00

Matters of Public Interest discussion
ADP Gallacher now in chair
Mason/McEwen
Cameron—start speech **ISRAEL/PALESTINE**
<https://www.google.com.au/webhp?q=%22and+boycotts+from+the+international+community%22>
<https://www.google.com.au/webhp?q=%22israel+has+arrived+at+an+important+juncture%22>

T34 13:07

Gallacher Mason McEwen
Matters of Public Interest
Cameron contin

t35 13.15

ADP Gallacher
Mason/McEwen
Hanson-Young—s—matters of public interest: Asylum Seekers

t36 13:22

Join: If I was in a country...
Hanson-Young—ic—MPI
ADP Gallacher
(Time expired)

t37 13:30

ADP Gallacher
Mason/Cameron
Matters of public interest
[13:29] Williams—s—re SCARF program

t38 13:37

ADP Gallacher
Mason/Cameron
Matters of public interest
Williams in contin
[13:40] Lines s re homelessness

t39 13:45

Lines ic—matter of public interest
Mason/ADP Gallacher/Cameron

t40 13:52

Joi—These are people who do it tough
ADP Gallacher

c—Lines

[13:55]

President

[13:55]

s—Sinodinos—Australian Water Holdings

[13:56]

s—Wong—Australian Water Holdings

i—Macdonald

i—Heffernan the wind has gone out of your sails

[13:57]

c—Wong

i—Abetz would you have voted for it with us

[13:59]

i—Macdonald do you want to apologise for the front door

t41 12:00

Wong continuing statement

Ministerial Arrangements

Abetz **[14:00]**

Questions without notice

Q Wong, Assistant Treasurer **[14:01]**

A Abetz **[14:01]**

SQ Wong **[14:03]**

A Abetz **[14:03]**

FSQ Wong **[14:04]**

Why did they appoint you leader after what happened in front of Parliament House—Macdonald **[14:04]**

A Abetz **[14:04]**

Q Eggleston, Minerals Resource Rent Tax **[14:05]**

A Abetz **[14:06]**

t42 14:07

Join: 'When that was ...

ic—Abetz

[14:08]

Sterle: you know exactly what he said... what about the gst?

[14:08]

Lines interjecting

[14:08]

Q—Eggleston

A—Abetz

[14:09]

Bernardi yelling across to whish wilson.

bernardi (to whish wilson?)open the bolanger

[14:09]

i—Wong: You didn't want to debate it.

[14:10]

Q—Eggleston

A—Get rid of Barnett (Opposition interjection)

[14:11]

Sterle: it's doing better than any other state. This is bull dust. He is misleading the senate. You are full of Bull.

[14:11]

Sterle: You are an absolute clown

[14:11]

Q—Kim Carr

[14:12]

Ronaldson: what about michael williamson with the printing contracts.

[14:12]

iiWong

[14:13]

Moore: relevance

[14:13]

Abetz

Bernardi and Collins across chamber to each other.

[14:14]

i—K Carr: Is that how you treat the senate?

t42 14:15

President

Abetz/Wong

a—Abetz

[14:15]

Wong—point of order—relevance

[14:15]

no point of order

ic—Abetz[14:16]

[14:16]

fsq—Carr K

[14:16]

mcDonald—why don't you ask Obeid, he's one of yoru members?

[14:16]

a—Abetz

[14:17]

ij—Cash—*Mr Burke!* responded to

[14:17]

iigs, Cormann, Back mentioned by President

[14:17]

Wong—*it was a friendly conversation!* Responded to by President

[14:18]

Moore—point of order, no point of order

[14:18]

c—Abetz (*Time expired*)

[14:18]

q—Wright

[14:19]

q—Brandis

[14:20]

ij—Carr, K—Really! The minister for immigration seems to do that all the time

[14:21]

ij—Carr, K—well, what a surprise!

[14:21]

iios

President

[14:21]

ic—Brandis

t43 14:22

Wright—sq

Payne: Are you serious?

Cameron: Just tell him you can't believe what you read in the *Australian*.

Singh: You'd know all about it.

Wong: You have no understanding of

[14:24]

Wright fsq

Cash: That hurts.

Abetz: You had all

Wong: There's an endorsement for you!

Cameron: Cory is on his way back.

Cameron: The second coming of Cory.

Bernardi: You've just written my pre-election speech.

[14:26]

Smith to Cormann re environment

Cameron: You are the job killers—65000 since you came to power.

(Time expired)

t44 14:30

Smith supplementary question

Cormann answer

(Time expired)

Smith second supplementary

[14:31]

Cormann answer

(Time expired)

[14:32]

q—Sterle to Abetz re Education

[14:32]

a—Abetz

[14:33]

sq—Sterle

[14:34]

a—Abetz

[14:35]

ssq—Sterle

[14:35]

a—Abetz

t45 14:37

[14:36]

q—Kroger to Fifield re Aged Care

[14:37]

a—Fifield

HACC

i—Lines—you took their money away you took money away for aged care workers

[14:39]

sq—Kroger

a—Fifield

[14:40]

fsq—Kroger

[14:41]

a—Fifield

i—Collins—Cuts I think it is called.

[14:42]

Why don't you pay them properly—Polley

[14:42]

q—Xenophon Export Finance Insurance Corporation

[14:43]

a—Cormann

t46 14:45

ic Cormann

ij Whish-W

[14:44]

SQ Xenophon to Cormann—EFIC

[14:45]

A Cormann

[14:45]

SSQ Xenophon to Cormann

[14:46]

A Cormann

[14:47]

ij it's called sovereign risk—W-W

[14:47]

(Time expired)

[14:47]

Q Moore to Cash—Superannuation/female workforce

A Cash

[14:48]

ij Wong—not consistent with doing the right thing by women

Opposition senators interjecting—

[14:48]

ij Collins—this must be why she says she's not a feminist

ij Wong no, we didn't get to it

Opposition senators interjecting—

[14:49]

ij Wong

Opposition senators interjecting—

ij wong

[14:50]

c—Cash

[14:50]

SQ Moore

ij Cameron, Wong

[14:50]

Cash—at least I didn't axe the prime minister. You are sitting there and you axed a female prime minister

SQ Moore to Cash

Honourable senators interjecting—

ij macdonald

ij cameron

don't worry if your'e wealthy and pregnant you'll be fine—J collins

[14:51]

A Cash

ios—to backflips! (this gv is committed to)

T47 14:52

"They'll stand up in this place" – suggested join

Cash finishes

[14:52]

Moore supplementary q to Cash

[14:53]

Cash – a

[14:54]

Wong point of order

lots of interjecting (everyone) – Wong has to wait a fair while.

[14:55]

Hogg – no point of order

[14:55]

Cash – nothing further to add

[14:55]

q McKenzie to Payne – education/teacher quality

[14:55]

a – Payne

[14:57]

McKenzie – sq

[14:58]

Payne – a

Why don't you ask how much the bush are going to lose – Cameron - ij

Payne recommences answer.

[14:59]

McKenzie – further supplementary question

t48 15:00

a – Payne – education

[15:01]

q – Carr – investment in advisory body on clinical trials

a – Ronaldson – science and innovation

I – Moore – pt of order on relevance

c – Ronaldson

I – Conroy – pt of order on relevance

c – Ronaldson

[15:05]

moore on pt of order, but mic not on

tx

sq – Carr – clinical research

I - I wonder if he can say the word clinical research - collins

a – Ronaldson

I – moore – pt of order on relevance

t49 15:07

join: Ronaldson as I have been

[15:07]

Wong point of order on relevance

[15:07]

ij cormann

[15:07]

President rules

[15:07]

ij conroy who's in who's out

responded to

[15:08]

carr on feet on point of order

[15:08]

ij williams

[15:08]

ij cormann can you let him have a say now

[15:08]

ronaldson

omi

ij fifield this is called delayed gratification

ij conroy ij sterle

[15:09]

Ronaldson continuing

ij carr

ij collins

[15:09]

moore on point of order on relevance

gmi

ij ronaldson

ij wong

[15:09]

president

[15:10]

Moore on point of order

ij brandis you've got no sense of fun have you

[15:10]

president

[15:10]

continuing Ronaldson

[15:10]

(Time expired)

[15:11]

Abetz asks further questions be placed on notice

[15:11]

Senators leaving chamber

[15:11]

ADP Bernardi takes chair

[15:11]

ADP asking

[15:11]

S Brandis seeks leave to add to answer

[15:11]

lg

[15:11]

Brandis adding to answer to Milne yesterday on Cambodia

ADP Bernardi

Abetz/Wong

[15:14]

S milne seeking leave to make

[15:14]

ij Abetz 10 minutes

[15:14]

t51 15:15

MOTIONS TO TAKE NOTE

ADP Bernardi/Abetz/Wong

Linda to start Milne speech re Cambodia

[15:16]

S—Wong—answers provided by Abetz in QT today (Assistant Treasurer)

[15:21]

T52 15:22

Bernardi Fifield Carr

Take note debate

Ryan 15.21

Carr 15.26

t53 15.30

Join: Mr Abbott made it ...

ADP Bernardi

Fifield/Moore

Carr—ic—motion to take note of answers debate

(Time expired)

[15:32]

Macdonald—s

[15:34] ij Lines—How would you know?

[15:37] Lines ij

t54 15:37

Join: s—O'Neill—motion to take note of answers debate
ADP Bernardi
Fifield/Moore
Fifield—Point of order, 15:40.
O'Neill—ic
(*Time expired*) 15:43.
Question that motion moved by Senator Wong be agreed to.
Question agreed to.
Wright—s—motion to take note of...Brandis... racial discrimination act.

t55 15:45

Wright—ic
ADP Bernardi
Fifield/Moore
Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, National Inquiry Into Racist Violence,
multiculturalism and the law

[15:48]

NOTICES OF MOTION

[15:48]

s—Fifield, bills, by leave

[15:49]

s—McDonald—pastoral industry in SA

[15:50]

s—Siewert—petition,

[15:50]

placing of business

[15:50]

s—Siewert—leave of absence, Ludlam

[15:51]

discovery of formal business

[15:51]

s—Fifield, taken as formal: moves motion, by leave—makes statement

t56 15:52

Join: start of Fifield's statement.

[15:52]

Milne—short statement

ADP Bernardi

Fifield/Moore

Division required

President takes chair

[15:57] doors locked

Ayes:29

Noes: 34

[15:59]

t57 16:00

Waters notice of motion No. 182 coal seam gas

Bernardi in the chair

Division Doors locked: **[16:01]**

Ayes: 9

Noes: 36

Question negatived.

No. 180 Senator Rhiannon notice of motion on construction sites

Motion AS AMENDED

[16:04]

leave granted for Fifield to make short statement of one minute

[16:04]

leave granted for Rhiannon statement for one minute

Question agreed to.

[16:06]

Siewert motion No. 178 re carers

Question agreed to.

t58 16:07

ADP Bernardi/Fifield/Carr

[16:07]

Singh and Milne No. 179—Sudan

s—Milne moves motion

qa

[16:07]

s-Ludwig

Environment Conservation and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Bill—first reading

qa

[16:08]

Ludwig moves second reading and tables explanatory memorandum

Speech incorporated

Seeks leave to continue remarks

[16:09]

Matter of Public Importance

[16:09]

s—Carr

The Prime Minister's failure to uphold ministerial standards.

Furnell = Alastair Furnival

t56 16:15

ADP Bernardi

ic—Carr—MPI—ministerial standards

SMH quote

[16:18]

ij Brandis: no, I just put on the record the bits you left out—
quoting ICAC report?

[16:19]

ij Brandis: well, we don't now! We don't now!

[16:19]

(Time expired)

s—Birmingham—MPI—mnl standards

[16:21]

ij Brandis: they couldn't say a thing.

T57 16:22

They have ignored the fact – suggested join
IC Birmingham on MPI on ministerial standards
ADP Bernardi
Brandis/Cameron

T58 16:30

ADP Sterle
Brandis/Cameron

[16:29]

s – Rhiannon – on MPI on ministerial standards

[16:33]

have you heard of the register of donations – ij brandis

T59 16:37

join: Let us have it on
ADP Sterle
Brandis/Cameron

in contin Rhiannon on Matter of public importance—letter received from Senator Moore—on ministerial standards

[16:39]

s cameron on Matter of public importance—letter received from Senator Moore: 'Prime Minister's failure to uphold ministerial standards'

ij bernardi 'and george campbell'

t63 16:45

ADP Sterle/Brandis/Moore
join: We will see in a couple of weeks
Cameron in continuation

MPI = Prime Minister's failure to uphold ministerial standards

<https://www.google.com.au/webhp?q=%22you+don't+have+a+choice+shanahan%22>

<https://www.google.com.au/webhp?q=%22given+by+his+former+political%22>

[16:49]

Bernardi—speech

T64 16:52

ADP Sterle/Brandis/Moore

MPI = Prime Minister's failure to uphold ministerial standards

Bernardi contin (*Time expired*)

Urquhart 16.54

Hogg to chair

(*Time expired*)

t65 17.00

President

Fifield/Moore

Senator O'Sullivan—s—first speech

t66 17:07

Join: As my state...

Fifield/PR/Moore

O'Sullivan—ic

t67 17:15

President

Abetz/Wong

O'Sullivan—first speech in contin—These are communities ...

t68 17:22

President

Abetz/Wong

[17:23] Mason s on MPI

t69 17:30

Mason ic—MPI

Scullion/ADP Bernardi/Moore

(*Time expired*)

[17:33]

fawcett s—committee report presentation

printed; take note

t70 17:37

Join—I would also like to note

c—Fawcett

DS Bernardi

Question agreed to.

Ds Fawcett

[17:38]

s—McEwen—scrutiny of bills report and printing order

[17:38]

s—Bushby— regs and ords committee report

[17:39]

s—Bushby—examination of annual reports of legislation committees and printing order

[17:39]

s—Siewert—comm refs committee report—by leave—moved adoption of interim report

Question agreed to.

[17:40]

s—Scullion—tabled ministerial statement on deregulation

[17:40]

s—Bishop—by leave—moved take note of statement

t71 17:45

ADP Fawcett

Scullion/Moore

Bishop's motion to take note of ministerial statement on deregulation

Bishop continuing

Question agreed to.

Documents tabled by the Clerk

Committee memberships

s—Scullion, by leave, moves motion to vary memberships

Question agreed to.

Changes to joint committees relayed from the reps

Message

Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill returned from reps with agreeing to some amendments

s—Scullion moves that consideration of the message be made an order of the day for another day

Question agreed to.

t72 17:52

ADP Fawcett

Scullion/Moore

Bills forwarded from reps for concurrence

s—Scullion moves first reading

Bills read a first time

s—Scullion moves 2R and incorporates 2R speeches

Debate adjourned till 13 May

Social Security (Increased Employment Participation) Bill forward from reps

s—Scullion moves 1R
Bill read a first time.
s—Scullion [17:54]
moves 2R and incorporates 2R speech
Debate adjourned till 13 May

Assent to Bills

s—Moore, at request of McLucas, moves for the disallowance of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Delegation) Regulation 2013 [17:56]

ADP Marshall [17:56]

t73 18:00

ADP Marshall
Scullion/Moore
ic—Moore

[18:01]

ij—Scullion—*Imagine having to respond in three months! Imagine that!* responded to

[18:05]

s—Peris—motion on disallowance of

t74 18:07

Join: The health of the land...

Peris—ic

Scullion: They have recented since.

Scullion: No damage was done.

ADP Marshall

Scullion/Moore

Quoting from a submission: 'The regulations require Land Councils— re delegations—8 pts

Groote Eylandt Land Council= Anindilyakwa Land Council (i)

NLC, Timber Creek, May 2013

t75 18:15

ic—Peris on Disallowance of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Delegation) Regulation 2013 [[F2013L02122](#)]

ADP Marshall

Scullion/Moore

[18:16]

s—Siewert on disallowance motion

t76 18:22

ic—Siewert on disallowance motion

ADP Marshall

Scullion/Moore

[18:26]

s—Xenophon on Disallowance of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Delegation) Regulation 2013 [[F2013L02122](#)]

[18:30]

s—Scullion on disallowance motion

ADP Ruston now in the chair

t77 18:30

ic Scullion on disallowance motion—Aboriginal Land Rights amdt reg

ADP Ruston

[18:34]

Scullion addressing Sen. Peris, who is in the chamber

[18:36]

Morrie Ryan

Scullion addressing the gallery

[18:37]

pt of order Urquhart

T78 18:37

join at Urquhart's point of order

Scullion continues – disallowance motion – Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment regulation

ADP Ruston

Scullion/Moore

T79 18:45

join - It is unconscionable ...

Scullion ic - disallowance motion – Aboriginal Land Rights Amendment regulation

ADP Ruston

Scullion/Moore

Roy Marika was the youngest brother of Mawalan 1, Mathaman and Milirrpum

[18:50]

tx

consideration of govt documents

document 6 –

T80 18:52

[18:51]

adj debate

[18:51]

speech mckenzie on crystal methamphetamine

'as the minister leaves the chamber'—Scullion probably

ADP Ruston

Birmingham/C Brown

Project Ice Mildura

[18:58]

ADP Ruston

Birmingham/Cameron

[18:58]

ADP Bernardi takes chair

Birmingham/Cameron

[18:58]

s Dastyari on Sri Lanka in adjournment debate

t81 19:00

ADP Bernardi now in chair/Birmingham/Cameron

Dastyari—in cont: SRI LANKA

T82 19:07

Bernardi Colbeck Cameron

Adjournment

Dastyari contin

Back 19.08

t83 19:15

Join: Very quickly on statistics ...

ADP Bernardi

Colbeck/Cameron

Back—ic—adjournment debate

[19:19]

Ruston—s—South Australia State Election

t84 19:22

Join: Cameron—i—You have got to win the seats

Ruston—s

ADP Bernardi

Senate adjourned: 19:27.