

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2015**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Mobile phone use**

Question: **19**

Written **Senator Bernardi**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 April 2015

On 3 December 2014, Malcolm Farr reported that readers could send a text message to a certain mobile number if they wanted to voice their views on higher education reforms.

The article stated that “the Labor Opposition will forward all messages – for and against – to Mr Pyne.”^[1]
The phone number was 0477 333 555.

1. Is (or was) this mobile number linked to a government-funded phone?
 - a. If the mobile number is linked to a government-funded phone, please provide the costs attributed to this mobile number.
 - b. If the mobile number is linked to a government-funded phone, please provide details as to who the phone is registered to.
 - c. If the mobile number is linked to a government-funded phone, please provide a copy of the bill for this phone account.

Answer

1. Mobile or service number 0477 333 555 is not nor has it ever been a telecommunication service administered by DPS.

^[1] Malcolm Farr, ‘Your chance to text Education Minister Christopher Pyne’, News.com.au, 3.12.2014.