

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
9 February 2016

Department/Agency: Department of Finance

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Electorate office relocations

Senator: Ludwig

Question reference number: F126

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 1 April 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September 2015:

1. What are the guidelines through which a member or senator can request to have their electorate office relocated?
2. Please provide a list of standard features, fixtures, furniture and other equipment that come standard with an electorate office relocation.
3. Which members and/or senators have relocated their electorate offices to a new location during the specified period?
4. For each listed above, please provide a cost break down for the relocation.
5. For each listed above, please provide a list of all specific requests made by the member, senator or their office for features, fixtures, furniture and other equipment.
6. Please provide a copy of any communication (including but not limited to emails, letters, memos, notes etc) between the member, senator or their office regarding the office relocation.

Answer:

1. – 2. Senators and Members are provided with accommodation and office facilities under entitlement. The Special Minister of State is responsible for the approval of electorate office relocations. Guidance on the entitlement is outlined in the *Senators and Members'*

Entitlements handbook available on the Ministerial and Parliamentary Services website at

[http://www.maps.finance.gov.au/entitlements_handbooks/senators-and-members/Part_Three_Accommodation_Office_Facilities - 3.1 Electorate Offices.asp](http://www.maps.finance.gov.au/entitlements_handbooks/senators-and-members/Part_Three_Accommodation_Office_Facilities_-_3.1_Electorate_Offices.asp)

3. The following Senators and Members relocated during the specified period:
 - Senator Joe Bullock, Senator for Western Australia
 - The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP, Member for Brisbane
 - Mrs Karen McNamara MP, Member for Dobell
 - Mrs Ann Sudmalis MP, Member for Gilmore

4. Senator Joe Bullock

- Fitout costs (including furniture) – Nil;
- Relocation costs - \$6,069.42;
- Signage – Nil.

The Hon Teresa Gambaro MP

- Fitout costs (including furniture) - \$323,563.50;
- Relocation costs - \$13,381.74;
- Signage – Nil.

Mrs Karen McNamara MP

- Fitout costs (including furniture) – \$7,197.04;
- Relocation costs - \$5,844.86;
- Signage - \$1,171.20.

Mrs Ann Sudmalis MP

- Fitout costs (including furniture) - \$372,445.40;
- Relocation costs - \$3,534.00;
- Signage - \$387.00.

5. Mrs Ann Sudmalis MP asked for a small table and chairs in the reception area.

6. The Department does not ordinarily provide copies of correspondence relating to its interaction with Senators and Members on entitlement matters.