

**Question: 6****Topic: Appointment of the new Deputy Clerk of the Senate****Received: 20 March 2017****Senator Wong asked:**

What arrangements have been put in place to service senators and their staff, and the needs of the Department of the Senate, whilst the position of Deputy Clerk of the Senate has been vacant?

**Answer:**

Some duties were reallocated to ensure senators' and departmental requirements were met. The Clerk Assistant (Committees) was appointed Registrar of Senators' Interests, and secretary to the relevant committee. The Clerk Assistant (Table) briefed the Deputy President on daily proceedings on sitting days. A committee researcher/writer was added to the secretariat to the Privileges Committee to assist the (Acting) Clerk, who remained its secretary. The Clerk Assistant (Committees) and Usher of the Black Rod each undertook duties in the Clerk's Chair in the Senate to ensure flexible rostering arrangements. The Clerk Assistant (Procedure) and Usher of the Black Rod each chaired or attended various management meetings in the Deputy's place during non-sitting weeks. Otherwise, Mr Pye generally undertook the necessary duties, as required.