

## **Additional Estimates Question on Notice — March 2017**

103 **Senator the Hon. Don Farrell:** asked the President of the Senate—

With reference to questions and evidence at the 2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates, at which Senator Wong asked about the appointment of the former member of the House of Representatives, Mr Eric Hutchinson, to an adviser level position in the President's office:

- (1) On how many occasions Mr Hutchinson has travelled to Canberra since his appointment in September 2016?
- (2) Please provide a breakdown of the events Mr Hutchinson has attended as the President's representative, including the location of the events.
- (3) Please provide a breakdown of the events the President has attended in Tasmania in his capacity as President of the Senate, as distinct from his role as a senator for Tasmania, since 1 July 2016.
- (4) Please provide a breakdown of the events the President has attended in other states and territories and overseas as President of the Senate, since 1 July 2016.

### **Answer**

- (1) Mr Hutchinson has travelled to Canberra during sitting periods.
- (2) Mr Hutchinson has represented me at a variety of functions, events and meetings, including funerals and special events, such as the 1967 Tasmanian Bushfires 50th Commemorative Anniversary.
- (3) As, President I regularly attend events when in my home State. Some of the events attended also overlap as being a Senator for Tasmania. It is hard to distinguish from an invitation that is addressed to the President of the Senate, as to whether it is as President or indeed as a Senator for Tasmania. Some clear distinctions are obvious when the invitations/requests are presented, particularly when the invitation/request specifies the topic – such as “the role of the President of the Senate”, “the Senate and how it works”, “the current makeup and administration of the Senate” and similar. Some requests are very clear, when it is stated, “in your capacity as President of the Senate... (or similar wording)”.
- (4) As President, I have attended events, meetings and functions in other States and Territories during the period in question. I have not undertaken official overseas travel during the period in question.