

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—November 2013**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Departments: Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Coalition Advisory Service**

Question No: **164**

Written: **Senator Faulkner**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 January 2014

With reference to the newly established Coalition Advisory Service:

1. What amount, if any, has been expended on
 - a. furnishings
 - b. fittings
 - c. maintenance; and
 - d. building works at the service's Parliament House location since 7 September 2013?
2. What electronic equipment, including computer and telecommunications equipment, has been provided to the Coalition Advisory Service by the Department of Parliamentary Services? For each type of equipment please provide
 - a. description
 - b. unit value; and
 - c. number.
3. Is any electronic equipment provided to the Coalition Advisory Service located in a place other than the service's Parliament House location?
4. Does the department meet ongoing computing and communications costs of the service? If so, can a breakdown of costs so far be provided? Is there a budget for computing and communications costs of the service in 2013-14?

Answer

1. DPS spent \$67.50 for signage to MG 3.
2. As at 31 December 2013 DPS has provided the following equipment to the Coalition Advisory Service (CAS):
 - Seven Laptops - four laptops at the cost of \$2,140 each and three at the cost of \$1,710 each.
 - Seven iPhones 5S were also supplied at a cost of \$1168.01 each and a \$44 per month data plan linked to each phone. Call charges are in addition to these costs.
3. The equipment provided to the CAS has been provisioned in Parliament House. It is up to staff within the CAS to determine if they use that equipment in other locations outside of Parliament House.
4. The ICT services provided to the CAS are run through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Finance (DOF). This MOU is the same as that used for the Caucus Communications Team (CCT) under the previous government. Under this MOU, charges for equipment and support are billed back to the Department of Finance on a quarterly basis.