

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2014

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Heightened security costs**

Question: **186**

Hansard Reference **p 86-87, 20 October 2014**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 31 December 2014

Senator WONG: With the new security arrangements we have seen additional DPS staff at additional screening points in the ministerial wing, at the ministerial car park, et cetera. This is not the AFP—I will come to that—what is the total cost to date of these enhanced security arrangements?

Mr Skill: We will have to take that on notice. There is a proposal for funding in place at the moment and so we do not know—

Senator WONG: I understand that at the moment there is an argument about who will fund it. Is that broadly right?

Mr Skill: Not strictly speaking, no.

Senator WONG: There isn't an argument?

Mr Skill: There is a discussion around the cut over time of funding—are we talking DPS or AFP?

Senator WONG: We can come to that. All I am trying to clarify is that I want to understand first the quantum. What is the cost of the enhanced security arrangements?

Mr Skill: We will take that on notice.

Senator WONG: If you could disaggregate it as much as you are able to. I assume you have a cost centre that enables you to do that.

Mr Skill: It will be based on the physical rostering, but we will go through it.

Senator WONG: But, second, who is going to fund that? As I understand it, that is the subject of, shall I say, a discussion.

Mr Skill: Potentially. DPS is funding the additional staffing at the moment and we will continue to fund them from within our appropriation. It is just a matter of whether we can achieve or secure additional funding within that envelope.

Senator WONG: So it is currently being funded out of the DPS appropriation?

Mr Skill: Correct.

Senator WONG: Have you made offsetting savings to date to fund those?

Mr Skill: Not to date. Our focus has been on putting in place the arrangements that are necessary.

Senator WONG: But presumably you would have an NPP that will be considered in the budget process for this proposition?

Mr Skill: I would not want to go through the budget process but, in general, yes.

Senator WONG: You are going to ask for more money to fund it. It is not a state secret.

Ms Mills: Yes, clearly, these are additional responsibilities.

Senator WONG: Yes. Do we have an estimated cost over the current financial year?

Mr Skill: No.

Senator WONG: Can you provide that on notice?

Mr Skill: I can.

Answer

What is the total cost to date of the enhanced security arrangements?

- As at 6 November 2014, DPS has expended approx. \$256,650 in salary and overtime costs (due to changing rosters and duty points as part of the increased personnel presence) which were not budgeted.
- Other costs regarding security equipment have not been processed as yet as they are conducted quarterly.
- AFP costs ceased to be met by DPS as of 12 September 2014.

Who is going to fund the enhanced security arrangements with an estimated cost over the current financial year?

- The source of funding for the additional security costs are subject to Government consideration.