

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: **Hospitality costs**
Question: **189**
Hansard Reference **p 93, 20 October 2014**

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

Senator WONG: Where does the ICRO request for mobile bars et cetera get funded out of? Does the Speaker pay DPS for that or does DPS just meet the costs? What is the cost arrangement?

Ms Hanley: I would imagine—

Senator WONG: We cannot deal with 'imagine'. This is the problem with not having a CFO. Does no-one know how it is funded? Ms Mills, you do not know how it is funded?

Ms Mills: I know that we calculate the value and I know that we invoice for certain things, but whether it is for every item or whether there is a benchmark I would have to recheck.

Senator WONG: That would be good.

Ms Mills: As I say, there are a number of events here. I would have to check each one.

Senator WONG: I am asking: is no-one able to tell me how these—

Ms Mills: In general terms, we calculate the cost and they are normally part of the cost of the event.

Senator WONG: So the figure of \$23,000 you gave me is what DPS has paid for the kitchen upgrade in the Speaker's suite—correct?

Ms Mills: That is right.

Senator WONG: You will come back to me on how the equipment request in the second part of the answer is costed and who paid for that?

Ms Mills: Yes.

Answer

DPS meets the costs for IPRO (previously ICRO) requests for function furniture. This is in line with *Operating Policy and Procedure 24 - Use of Parliament House facilities for functions and events*, which was approved by the Presiding Officers on 17 February 2011, which states:

Funded functions are defined as a function that is approved and supported by the Parliament as a whole. In this respect, a whole-of-Parliament perspective is taken rather than an Executive Government perspective.

The categories of funded functions include:

- a) a function for any parliamentary purpose, including the Parliament's education and public relations activities under the auspices of the International Community Relations Office (ICRO) and the Parliamentary Education Office (PEO)—this category also includes special ceremonial events, such as the Opening of Parliament;
- b) a function arranged by the Executive Government, which is supported by the Parliament as a whole—primarily national events arranged by the Ceremonial and Hospitality Unit (CERHOS) of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- c) free public performances;
- d) functions that are supported by the Presiding Officers in their capacity as Presiding Officers;
- e) official functions that are held by one of the three parliamentary departments (note that this does not include social functions);

- f) certain meetings or functions held by Approved Parliamentary Groups, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union Groups;
- g) functions that relate to the activities of the Parliament as a whole, or of one House, such as swearing in of the Governor-General;
- h) functions held by Parliamentary Joint Committees, or Committees of either House.

When a request for function furniture is received from the IPRO Protocol & Function Coordinator, DPS actions the request as per the policy.