

## 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: Prime Minister's Office renovations – timelines

Question: 191

Hansard Reference pp 95, 96 & 98, 20 October 2014

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

**Senator FAULKNER:** Okay. Thank you for that. I did ask, in that question on notice, if I could be provided with project time lines, but they were not forthcoming. Could someone explain why? I asked for details of refurbishments, renovations and redevelopments since September 2013, including project time lines and costs. Costs were provided; timelines were not.

**Mr Skill:** The work was undertaken between December 2013 and May 2014, Senator. If you wanted more detail around the lead times of the projects et cetera, we would have to take that on notice.

**Senator FAULKNER:** Yes. I do not want to delay the committee now but I would appreciate it, if you could provide that information. It is not clear to me, because of the status A and other status definitions: does the answer to this question mean that there were other refurbishments, renovations and redevelopments in the Prime Minister's suite which were outside status A areas?

**Mr Skill:** As part of that project, Senator, there were some minor changes that were done, and room refurbishments in the media area of the Prime Minister's office. So that was not a status A piece of work; that was outside of the PM's suite.

**Senator FAULKNER:** My question has been interpreted as a status A area question, I gather?

**Mr Skill:** Yes.

**Senator FAULKNER:** I do not know why it was so interpreted. I do not want to delay the committee so this is something to take on notice. But could you go back, please, to my normal everyday definition of the Prime Minister's office and the cabinet suite, which is the office and the cabinet suite—not just status A but B, C, D, E or any other status. Could you include timelines and perhaps bring it forward from 18 September 2013 to a reasonable cut-off time such as 30 September?

**Mr Skill:** Yes, absolutely.

**Senator FAULKNER:** I do not want to delay the committee but that would be useful. You might just indicate to us if there have been any major renovations or redevelopments in the PMO since that time? Obviously you have taken that on notice and that is fair enough.

...

**Senator SMITH:** So even though you provide some details in your answer of the refurbishments, renovations and redevelopments, but not when they were approved. Perhaps you might provide that additional information to—

**Senator FAULKNER:** But that would come out of the timeline, of course—

**Ms Mills:** Yes.

**Senator SMITH:** The project timelines, of course—you are quite right, Senator Faulkner.

...

**Senator FAULKNER:** If I can come back to the question I asked about answers to my question on notice 312. Does this status A definition issue explain why, for example, the new kitchen in the PMO—and that work cost \$44,235, which came out of the February estimates around—is not included in there? Is it because it is not a status A area? Have I got that right?

**Mr Skill:** That is correct.

**Senator FAULKNER:** So my new question on notice will pick up the full picture.

**Mr Skill:** If you have got the kitchen, that was the only additional work. But we will package it all again for you.

**Senator FAULKNER:** In relation to the kitchen, I would appreciate it if you could let me know separately when that kicked off, when it commenced and when it concluded and maybe a disaggregation of the costs and the elements of that one.

**Mr Skill:** Absolutely.

## Answer

Detail on work undertaken in various areas of Australian Parliament House is outlined in the following -

### Timeframes for work within the Prime Minister's and Cabinet Suites.

Stage	Start	Finish
Project Start-up	16.12.13	17.12.13
Project Initiation	17.12.13	18.12.13
Planning	19.12.13	20.12.13
Execution	20.12.13	31.1.14
Dining Room	19.12.13	20.1.14
<i>Curtains installed</i>	<i>6.6.14</i>	<i>6.6.14</i>
Sitting Room	9.1.14	16.1.14
<i>Curtains installed</i>	<i>6.6.14</i>	<i>6.6.14</i>
PMO Kitchenette	8.1.14	31.1.14

### Prime Minister's Suite – Status A areas (Prime Minister's Office, Dining Room and Sitting Room)

A body of work was undertaken in the Status A areas of the Prime Minister's Suite between December 2013 and May 2014.

The work primarily involved refurbishment of the Dining and Sitting Room areas to enable them to be used for their originally intended purpose. The Dining Room had rarely been used as an occasional dining venue, as originally intended, rather it had been used as a meeting room, work and storage area.

The Dining Room, in particular, was required urgently due to the unavailability of The Lodge. It had suffered significant wear and tear due to its use as a meeting room, work and storage area over a number of years, and had not been refurbished since Parliament House opened in 1988.

The total cost of these works is \$51,524.84. The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the costs.

<b>Prime Minister's Suite – Status A areas</b>	
<b>External Contractor Work</b>	<b>Project Costs</b>
Sitting Room bulkhead and ceiling repairs	\$4,509.98
1 x new 3 seater lounge for the Sitting Room	\$8,871.00
Curtains for Dining and Sitting Rooms and PM's office; Cushions for Sitting Room	\$20,684.54
Reupholster 16 dining chairs using existing fabric	\$3,863.96
Lounge and sitting room chairs – upholster new 3 seater,	\$6,072.64

reupholster existing 3 seater and 2 armchairs	
New "Arabian" Leather for use on all seating furniture in Sitting Room	\$5,070.00
Reupholster 4 x tub chairs (in leather) for use in Sitting Room	\$2,452.72
<b>Total Prime Minister's Suite – Status A areas</b>	<b>\$51,524.84</b>

### **Prime Minister's Suite – Other Non-Status A areas (Support areas)**

A body of work was undertaken in the non-status A areas of the Prime Minister's Suite in January 2014.

In one of the support areas of the Prime Minister's Suite, alterations were made to support current working patterns. A small kitchenette was constructed to provide basic facilities for staff where none had existed previously. This was installed at a cost of \$44,235.

In addition to the installation of the kitchenette, recarpeting was also carried out in the support area at a total cost of \$8,545.

The total cost of these works is \$52,700. The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the costs.

<b><i>Prime Minister's Suite – Non Status A areas</i></b>	
<b><i>External Contractor Work</i></b>	<b>Project Costs</b>
Kitchenette	\$44,235
Carpet – PMO support area	\$8,545
<b>Total Prime Minister's Suite – Non status A areas</b>	<b>\$52,700</b>

### **Cabinet Suite – Status A areas**

Work in the Status A areas of the Cabinet Suite, which commenced in August 2013, was completed in November 2013.

The total cost of the works is \$31,967.11. The table below provides a detailed breakdown of the costs.

<b><i>Cabinet Suite – Status A areas</i></b>	
Orange Brumby leather	\$14,367.11
Reupholster 4 x three seater Norman Lounges	\$17,600.00
<b>Total Cabinet Suite – Status A areas</b>	<b>\$31,967.11</b>

### **Cabinet Suite – Non Status A areas**

There were no works undertaken in the non status A areas of the Cabinet Suite.