

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2016**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Limro contract**
Question: **16**
Hansard Reference **p 25; 17 October 2016**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Senator WONG: I have two very quick questions. The first relates to the cleaners. We have had lots of discussions about cleaners in this committee. Is it correct that they have not been given a pay increase since 2012? Is that right, Mr President?

The President: I will ask the department to answer that.

Ms Croke: It is a contract. It is actually administered by our building division but, as we have stated in several estimates hearings previously and on notice, it is a contract. DPS does not pay the cleaners directly. The cleaners are paid by Limro under the contract, and the negotiation between the cleaners and Limro—

Senator WONG: These are men and women who are very low paid, and you keep washing your hands of it by saying it is somebody else's problem. What underpins the contract is a set of pay rates. That is still unresolved, is it? We still have people four years on being paid the same lower rates; is that right?

Ms Croke: I think we would have to check that. I am not sure at what point the Limro negotiation is up to.

Answer

Limro provides internal cleaning services at Australian Parliament House (APH) and the current contract with DPS will finish on 30 June 2018.

DPS does not directly engage the cleaners and is not responsible for their pay and conditions.

The contract with Limro does not specify rates of pay for cleaners. However, under the terms of the contract, Schedule 5 requires:

The Contractor must ensure that every person, including subcontractors, employed in connection with the Cleaning Service is:

- a) paid wages at rates; and*
- b) employed under conditions of employment, not less favourable than those established by the relevant award.*

Limro advises that the current hourly rates paid to Limro staff are above the 'Cleaning Services Award 2010'. Based on that advice, Limro is meeting its contractual obligation to DPS.